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Jordan, Oman sign accord today

MUSCAT (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher arrived here Sunday and said he will sign an agreement with the Omani government aimed at promoting economic and trade links between the two countries. The agreement, which will be signed Monday, will provide for capital investments in both countries, facilitating import and export procedures between them and trying to achieve Omani-Jordanian integration in economic and agricultural affairs, the minister said. He said the agreement will also open the way for joint ventures in industry, and agriculture and will set up a follow-up committee to supervise the implementation of the agreement. Dr. Muasher, who leads a Jordanian delegation which includes representatives of the Amman chambers of industry and trade, is expected to stay five days in Oman holding talks with senior government officials.

Heart transplanted in S. Arabia

RIYADH (AP) — A Saudi Arabian surgeon performed the first heart transplant surgery in the kingdom on a two-year-old child suffering from a two-year-old accident victim, it was reported Sunday. Dr. Mohammad Rashid Al-Faqih told reporters that the operation was the first of its kind on an infant in the Middle East. When the child's heart stopped beating, the accident victim's heart was removed and transplanted into the child's chest. Hospital officials said that after the operation the child was doing well. The first heart transplant surgery in the Arab World was performed by a Jordanian doctor in Amman's King Hussein Medical Centre.

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Kuwait opens trial of five Lebanese

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's state security court on Sunday opened the trial of five Lebanese accused of plotting to sabotage strategic installations. Abdul Aziz Ali Karim, 37, and Abdullah Ali Karim, 26, were charged with making and blowing up the Doha power and water desalination plant near Kuwait City. Hassan Nassarallah Karim, 34, Kamal Reza, and Ahmad Youssef Mzane, tried in their absence, were charged with being part of the same conspiracy. The prosecutor asked for the death sentence or a heavy prison term.

Syrian transport minister due today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Syrian Transport Minister Youssef Al-Ahmad is due here on Monday at the head of a Syrian delegation to attend meetings of the Jordanian-Syrian Land Transport Company. The Syrian minister will also hold talks with his counterpart Farhi Obaid on issues related to the company and on cooperation between the two countries in the field of transport, local press reports said. The meetings are scheduled to deal with the company's operation plan for 1986, its budget for 1986 as well as its activities during the past year.

Mubarak, U.S. officials discuss aid

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak held separate meetings on Sunday with U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Armitage and U.S. Ambassador Charles Wilson, and discussed U.S. economic aid and the situation in the Middle East. Mr. Armitage made no statement after the meeting, but Mr. Wilson, (Democrat, Texas), said: "You know we have a serious budget problem in the United States. We are going to make very strong efforts to maintain the Egyptian level (of aid) as best we can." U.S. military and economic aid to Egypt this fiscal year amounts to \$2.1 billion, plus \$250 million in supplemental aid.

Arab radio operator attacked in Rome

ROME (AP) — The Egyptian-born operator of an anti-Libyan, anti-Islamic Arabic language radio station here was shot and wounded by five men waiting for him in ambush, an Italian news agency reported Sunday. Quoting police, the ANSA news agency said that Mohammed Reza, 50, was shot once in the stomach with a 38-calibre revolver as he left the radio station to go home early Sunday morning.

Speculations rise on Israel-Africa ties

TEL AVIV (R) — A senior Israeli foreign ministry official left for a tour of African countries on Sunday, prompting speculation that diplomatic ties with several black African countries may soon be restored after a 13-year break. The ministry said Director-General David Kimche left for a routine five-day visit to Israeli representations in Africa.

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Iraq launches major assault to evict Iranians from Fao

Combined agency dispatches

FIERCE GROUND, air and sea battles raged near the northern tip of the Gulf on Sunday after Iraq launched a three-pronged assault to evict Iranians from the strategic Fao port on the Shatt Al Arab waterway.

Reports from the front on Fao said Iraq was pressing home the attack on Iranians who crossed the Shatt Al Arab last Sunday and occupied parts of the disputed island which used to serve as Iraq's main oil terminal before the outbreak of the Gulf war in 1980.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Iraqi forces hit Iranian positions with thousands of tons of bombs and missiles during some of the heaviest fighting in the Gulf war last week.

Iraqi warplanes, far superior to their Iranian counterparts, flew more than 300 sorties on Sunday against Iranian troops on the Iraqi west bank of the Shatt Al Arab, an Iraqi military spokesman said. INA said thousands of tons of bombs and missiles struck Iranian positions, while Iranian bodies littered the battlefield after some of the fiercest fighting of the conflict, now in its sixth year.

An Iraqi war communiqué broadcast by Baghdad Radio said Iraqi war planes and navy vessels destroyed and sunk a total of 53 Iranian large and small vessels since Saturday, when it began to attack Iranian "naval targets" bringing in supplies and reinforcements to Fao.

The air and naval attacks in the

in repelling the enemy offensive." Foreign diplomats, meanwhile, told Reuters satellite surveillance showed an Iranian buildup at Susanger and other border towns near the Huweizeh marshes north of the southern Iraqi port of Basra.

They suggested the Iranians might launch an attack there to ease pressure on their troops further south.

Iraq said two days ago it had recaptured more of the man-made Majnoon Islands in the Huweizeh marshes taken by Iranian troops in early 1984. The islands were built to exploit rich oil deposits under the marshlands.

On the southern front, Iraq said anti-aircraft gunners shot down an F-4 Phantom fighter-bomber, the fifth Iranian warplane reported shot down since the start of the offensive.

Iraq also said its warplanes raided the Iranian mainland oil complex at Ganavah. Air strikes were also flown against Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal in the northern Gulf southwest of Ganavah on Saturday.

Tehran Radio quoted an Iranian communiqué as saying the Iranians attacked under cover of darkness again Saturday night and advanced several kilometres towards the Iraqi naval port of Umm Qasr.

The port lies up the Khawr 'Abd Allah Channel bordering Kuwait and 55 kilometres west of Fao.

Foreign diplomats said the offensive close to Kuwait indicated Iran was backing away from a purely diplomatic approach to sep-

arating Iraq from its Arab Gulf supporters.

Iraq's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported 2,000 Iraqi troops were killed in the battle west of Fao during the night. This brought to 12,700 the total number of Iraqi soldiers Iran claims to have killed since it launched its offensive across the Shatt Al Arab waterway last Sunday.

Iraq in turn said its forces killed more than 25,000 Iranian troops in counter-attacks against positions occupied by the Iranians along the Iraqi western bank of the waterway extending from Fao in the south to the Huweizeh marshes.

The claims of the combatants cannot be verified because neither side allows foreign journalists into the war fronts.

IRNA said heavy ground and air battles continued northwest of Fao and east of the Khawr 'Abd Allah inlet which leads to Umm Qasr.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz left for Moscow on Sunday for talks with Soviet officials on his way to New York, where the U.N. Security Council meets on Tuesday to discuss Iran's new offensive.

INA said Mr. Aziz was expected to meet Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze Monday morning. It gave no details, but said Mr. Aziz would leave for New York after a one-day working visit.

A Kuwaiti newspaper on Sunday called for a joint Arab military and political stand against Iran.

Jordanian personalities appeal for Syrian action to end war

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Fifty prominent Jordanian personalities appealed to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on Sunday to intervene and exert all possible efforts to stop the ongoing war between Iran and Iraq. The appeal was contained in a cable sent to President Assad. It was signed by presidents of professional associations in Jordan, former ministers, parliamentarians and several Palestine National Council (PNC) members.

"We have been following, for the last few days, the Iranian invasion of the territories of our brotherly country of Iraq," the cable said. "Iran itself proclaimed that

the invasion aimed at taking over the island of Fao and the city of Basra and has mobilised hundreds of thousands of troops for that purpose," it said.

The signatories expressed "anguish and pain" and said they felt "devastated" on behalf of the Jordanian people at the "continuous Iranian rejection of efforts to end the war... and its determination to occupy Iraqi territories." The cable said the war and the Iranian position "only benefits Israel... and damages brotherly Islamic relations."

"Fully aware and deeply convinced that one of the major means to end this war and restore the peace of mind of the Arab Nation, which has been burdened with anguish over the Arab future and

destiny, is an interference by brotherly Syria, the bulwark of Arab nationalism, in the way it sees most fit to end the war," the cable said.

The cable expressed confidence that Mr. Assad and the Syrian leadership would respond positively to the appeal, "which reflects the conscious of each and every Arab citizen."

The cable also called for a reconciliation between Syria and Iraq "to face the Zionist and imperialist aggression against the Arab Nation."

Following were the signatories to the appeal: Mr. Ibrahim Baker (prominent lawyer and PNC member), Sul-

(Continued on page 3)

Saud, Sabah meet Assad on Gulf war

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait arrived here on Sunday amid speculation they were to ask Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to cease his support for Iran against Iraq.

Arab diplomatic sources quoted by AP said the Saudi minister, Prince Saud Al Faisal, and his Kuwaiti counterpart, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad, also were to urge Mr. Assad to live up to the stipulations of the Arab League common defence charter and back Iraq against Iran.

Sheikh Sabah told Reuters upon arrival here that Kuwait is increasingly tense because of the close proximity to its border of the current Iranian offensive into southern Iraq.

"We have to be tense. We have to put out a red light," he said. The two Gulf ministers immediately went into meetings with Mr. Assad and Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara, the official Syrian News Agency said.

"This (diplomatic) effort is not aimed against anybody, but for all in the region as a whole," Prince Saud said. AP quoted its sources as saying the two ministers were to talk to Mr. Assad on behalf of the seven-power Arab committee, which met in the Iraqi capital last Wednesday to devise a plan for combined diplomatic action against Iran.

The committee was to approach Libya and Algeria to intercede with Iran for a cessation of its current offensive.

The Jordan Times adds: Foreign Minister Tariq Al Mawaz left Amman for London and New York on Sunday to follow up contacts for holding an urgent session of the U.N. Security Council to discuss the Gulf war situation. Jordan is a member of the seven-member Arab League committee which met in Baghdad last week and called for urgent Security Council action.

According to U.N. sources quoted by international news agencies, the council is expected to meet Tuesday.



KING RECEIVES U.S. SENATOR: His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday confers with U.S. Senator Charles Mathias, (2nd from left) who is currently on a visit to Jordan. In a meeting attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai (right), Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Paul Boeker (left). Earlier on Sunday, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan also received Mr. Mathias (Republican, Maryland) and briefed him on the situation in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories. Mr. Rifai and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker also held talks with the U.S. senator, who ends his visit to Jordan on Monday (Petra photo)

Mubarak and Arafat hold fresh talks on peace process

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak and Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat held two hours of talks here on Sunday in a fresh bid to break the deadlock in Middle East peace efforts.

The two leaders made no statements after their talks, but Egyptian Prime Minister Ali Lutfi, who joined them at a working lunch, said they would continue their discussions on Monday.

Mr. Lutfi, who met Mr. Arafat separately on Saturday, gave no other details and a PLO spokesman would say only that further talks were scheduled.

Official sources said Sunday's discussions dealt with three formulas proposed to Washington by the PLO for its acceptance of United Nations Resolutions 242 and

338. The contents of the proposals have not been disclosed and Mr. Arafat, asked on Saturday if he was moving to accept the two resolutions, said: "I think this is under discussion. We have already presented three formulas to the United States on this point."

Israel rejects PLO participation in any peace talks and Washington insists the organisation must first recognise the Jewish state's right to exist, which would be implicit in its acceptance of 242 and 338.

The PLO says its acceptance of 242 and 338 would come only in explicit U.S. endorsement of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination within a confederation as outlined in the Feb. 11 accord between Jordan and the PLO. The U.S. refuses to do this.

Mr. Arafat's talks here coincide with what was seen as a shift in U.S. policy on the Palestinian issue, signalled by a statement by the State Department last week that Palestinians are entitled to more status than mere "refugees," which is how they are described in the U.N. resolutions.

Speaking to reporters on Saturday, Mr. Arafat described the U.S. statement as an important and positive step, "the first time the United States talks about Palestinian legitimate rights."

The Palestinian News Agency, Wafa, reported that the Soviet ambassador to Cairo met Mr. Arafat on Sunday and delivered to him a message from the Soviet leadership. Wafa did not give details.

Two bombs explode in Jerusalem suburbs

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Bombs exploded on Sunday near a bus stop and outside a health clinic in north Jerusalem, Israeli police said. There were no casualties or damage.

Police said commandos may have planted the bomb at the bus stop used by hitchhiking soldiers travelling to the occupied West Bank.

They did not believe commandos planted the second bomb, found in a rubbish bin next to the health clinic.

It was the fifth and sixth bombing attacks in the area over the past four days. On Friday, six people were wounded when a bomb went off on a bus in Tel Aviv.

On Thursday, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) issued a communiqué in Tunis claiming responsibility for two explosions in which there were no

casualties.

In Lod, an Israeli military court sentenced three Palestinians to life in prison on Sunday after finding them guilty of planting 10 bombs in Jerusalem and being members of the PLO.

The men pleaded guilty Sunday to all 19 charges brought against them, including military training for resistance activity and planting the bombs last year between April and June. A charge sheet also accused them of membership in the Fateh faction of the PLO.

The bombs were planted mostly near Jerusalem bus stations, and 12 people were wounded in the attacks, according to the charge sheet.

Mazan Copti, the lawyer for Mahmud Hadwan who police said was the head of the ring, said his client had not acted for money "or because he hated Jews."

Aquino calls for civil strikes against Marcos

MANILA (Agencies) — Corazon Aquino, denied her claim to the presidency, called on Filipinos on Sunday to stage strikes, boycott pro-government media and withdraw funds from banks in a civil disobedience campaign against President Ferdinand Marcos' government.

Mr. Marcos, at a news conference held as Mrs. Aquino addressed an outdoor rally of more than one million people, said he would watch to see whether Mrs. Aquino succeeded in such a campaign.

Mr. Marcos also announced the long-anticipated resignation of armed forces Chief of Staff General Fabian C. Ver, 66, saying he would be temporarily replaced by deputy chief Lt. Fidel V. Ramos, 57.

The resignation of Gen. Ver, broadcast over portable radios in the crowd listening to Mrs. Aquino, brought applause and horn-blowing.

"Although unarmed, I feel like the young boy David, prepared to face the giant Goliath. If Goliath refuses to yield, we shall... escape."

Mrs. Aquino told the cheering throng one day after the national assembly officially proclaimed Mr. Marcos winner of the Feb. 7 election.

Mr. Marcos said: "We will have to convince her people with valid arguments that she has no basis for complaints." He suggested she file a formal challenge with a national electoral tribunal if she thinks she won the election.

Mrs. Aquino told her cheering supporters in Manila's Luneta park to go on strike on Feb. 26, the day after the inauguration of Mr. Marcos, who was proclaimed winner of the Feb. 7 presidential election which the opposition and church leaders describe as an unparalleled fraud.

Mrs. Aquino, who says Mr. Marcos stole victory from her, called on Filipinos to boycott seven banks controlled by friends or associates of Mr. Marcos as well as the San Miguel Corporation, a brewing and food giant headed by her own cousin Eduardo Cojuangco, a close friend of the pre-

sident's term. Mr. Berri told reporters. Sources in Mr. Berri's Amal militia said a "military solution" was not ruled out.

Gemayel in Paris for talks

PARIS (R) — Lebanon's beleaguered President Amin Gemayel arrived in Paris on Sunday for a surprise visit widely seen as a bid to win international support to head off mounting pressure for his resignation.

French officials said Mr. Gemayel would attend the first summit meeting of French-speaking leaders which opens on Sunday and hold talks with French President Francois Mitterrand.

Leaders from over 40 Francophone nations and regions are attending the summit, giving Mr. Gemayel plenty of scope to canvass support for his embattled position.

Presidential sources in Beirut said Mr. Gemayel, repeatedly urged by his opponents to resign, would discuss Lebanon's deepening political crisis with Mr. Mitterrand.

"This is the main reason for the visit," one presidential official said. Mr. Gemayel, pressed to quit by Muslim and Christian leaders for his refusal to back a Syrian-mediated peace pact, has insisted he will stay in office until his term expires in 1988.

In a sign of growing impatience over Mr. Gemayel's stance, Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblat said there had to be a winner and a loser in the civil war that has wracked Lebanon for 10 years.

"Closing the Lebanese dossier on the basis of 'no victor, no vanquished' is just delaying political and military explosions," Mr. Junblat told a rally near Beirut.

Political sources said Mr. Gemayel made the decision to go to France only hours before his departure. It was the president's first trip outside the region since October, 1984.

Shi'ite Muslim militia leader Nabih Berri on Saturday repeated demands for Mr. Gemayel's ousting.

"I still insist on cutting short the president's term," Mr. Berri told reporters. Sources in Mr. Berri's Amal militia said a "military solution" was not ruled out.

(Continued on page 3)

Peace still eludes Sidon 1 year after Israeli pullout

By Alistair Lyon
Roulet

SIDON, Lebanon — Shells supplied by Israel still crash periodically into Sidon a year after the last Israeli tank clanked out of the southern port at the end of a three-year occupation.

Then Sidon was a virtual ghost town, its economy paralysed and its 100,000 population cut by half. Now the streets bustle again — except when artillery duels between Sidon-based militia forces and the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia spill over from battlelines 10 kilometres to the east.

Sidon and the sprawling Palestinian refugee camps nearby were badly pounded when Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982 to crush the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) bases there.

Scars remain. Hebrew graffiti scrawled in red paint still adorn the Awali Bridge at Sidon's northern entrance and shell holes gape from blackened buildings in Central Nejme Square.

Since the Israeli pullout, the Palestinians have re-armed and Sidon has reverted to something like its ancient character of a city-state, ruled by opposition militias and notables with little regard for the weak central government in Beirut.

The set-up seems ramshackle, but Sidon leaders are proud to have averted the chaos predicted by Israeli officials on the eve of the withdrawal.

"Security is good, but we want to improve it," said Mustafa Saad.

head of the Popular Liberation Army, an alliance of Sunni Muslim and other Lebanese militias confronting the SLA.

Saad discounted conflict with the 50,000 or so Palestinians in the Ain Al Hilweh and Miyeh Miyeh camps. "We are determined not to let the situation revert to what it was before 1982, or what it was between 1982 and 1985," he told Reuters.

Local sources say the Palestinians, who hardly dared set foot beyond the camps during the occupation, are not armed with an arsenal that includes rocket launchers and heavy artillery.

"They learned a lesson from the camps war against (the Shi'ite militia) Amal in Beirut last summer — Don't trust anyone but yourselves," a political source said.

Hundreds of Palestinian commandos have filtered back to Ain Al Hilweh in the last year, most of them loyal to PLO leader Yasser Arafat, the source added.

Palestinian military power has become increasingly overt. The body of a Palestinian killed in combat with the SLA was escorted through Sidon last month by jeep-loads of heavily armed fighters despite a ban on such demonstrations.

Mr. Arafat is said to have close

ties with Sunni fundamentalist militias that have sprung up in Sidon since the invasion.

These co-exist somewhat uneasily with Saad's pro-Syrian fighters, who control access to the city and patrol the streets in their distinctive red berets and arm-bands.

The battlelines east of Sidon have been static since the SLA, based in the Christian town of Jezzine, halted opposition forces advancing through Christian villages last April.

Saad ruled out any assault on Jezzine, but said its leaders should demand the SLA's departure. "We told the Israelis to get out during the invasion. They must do the same," he said.

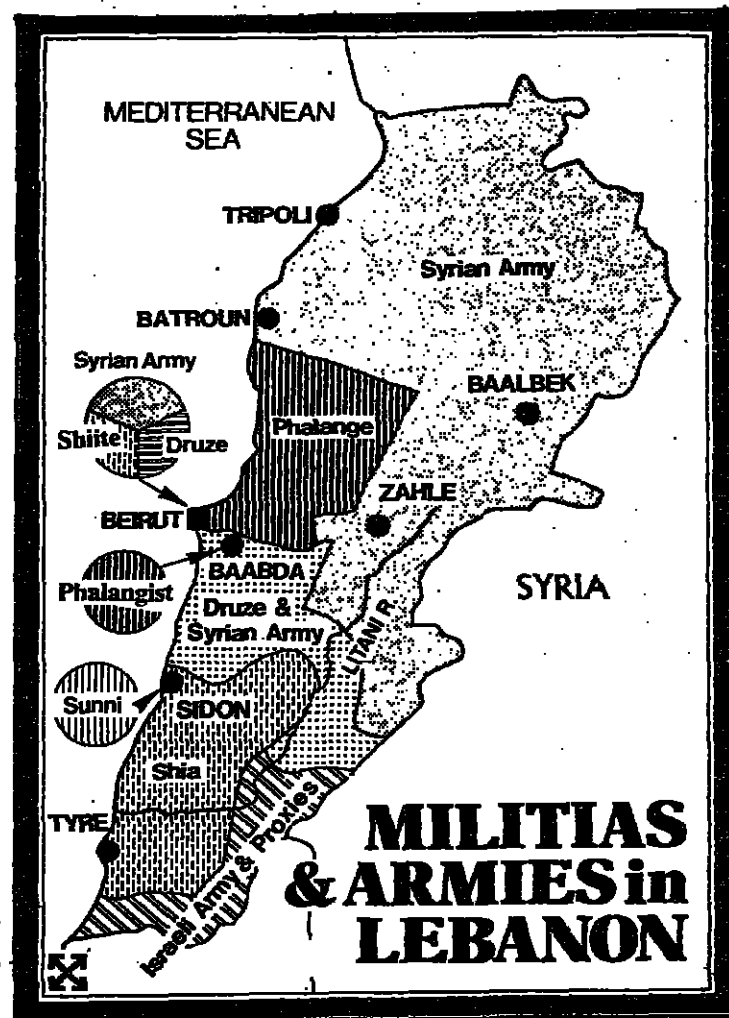
Saad, 34, lost his sight and a 12-year-old daughter in a car bomb attack on his home shortly before the Israelis left.

Sidon's economy has yet to recover from the occupation despite funds for reconstruction and welfare pumped in by its best-known native son, Saudi Arabian millionaire Rafiq Hariri.

A local businessman said that apart from a boom in imports of second-hand cars from Europe, business activity had been "frozen" by the year-long decline of the Lebanese pound.

Sidon still goes to bed early. "We watch videos in the evening because there's nothing to do," a resident complained.

Cinemas close at six p.m. and pavement cafes empty at dusk thanks to a fundamentalist ban on alcohol.



Wife of French hostage wants higher level envoy

PARIS (AP) — Joelle Kauffmann, wife of one of the four Frenchmen being held hostage in Lebanon, said she would like the French government to appoint a more official representative to deal with her husband's kidnappers.

In a radio interview Saturday, Mrs. Kauffmann, wife of journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann who was kidnapped on May 22 along with researcher Michel Seurat, said she had asked President Francois Mitterrand to name a higher level negotiator than Dr. Razak Raad, who is acting as a French government envoy.

"Arriving at this stage in the negotiations, I would like for there to be a more official government representative who can deal and negotiate with the kidnappers," she said.

Mrs. Kauffmann said she had asked Mr. Mitterrand to take the matter of the hostages personally in hand.

Meanwhile in Batavia, New York, Glenn Anderson, whose son is an American journalist being held hostage in Lebanon, died Saturday at St. Jerome's Hospital. He was 69.

Anderson had been ill with cancer. His 38-year-old son Terry, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, was kidnapped in Beirut on March 16, 1985.

Egyptian team leaves Israel after Taba talks

TEL AVIV (AP) — A team of Egyptian officials left Israel Sunday after another round of talks on a document that will define the terms of arbitration regarding the Taba border dispute. Both sides reported slight progress.

The talks, which began last Wednesday at the Mediterranean resort town of Herzliya, ended last Saturday and another round was scheduled for early March in Cairo.

"The talks were conducted in a good atmosphere. There were no severe problems," said David Kimche, the director-general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry. "But there are differences, and it's clear each side wants to attain the maximum possible," Mr. Kimche told reporters. His remarks were aired on Israeli Radio.

The sides are trying to reach agreement on terms for international arbitration of rival claims to Taba, a small border enclave at the northern tip of the Red Sea which is currently in Israeli control.

The head of the Egyptian delegation, Nabil Al Arabi of Egypt's Foreign Ministry, said in a radio interview that progress had been made on "minor issues." His comments were translated from Arabic into Hebrew.

Understanding was reached on some aspects of normalizing ties between the two countries which signed a peace treaty in 1979, the radio said.

Israeli Tourism Minister Avraham Shari' will visit Egypt next month with a team of experts to discuss increasing tourism ties, and Israeli economists will meet with Egyptian officials to talk about upgrading commercial links, said the report.

TASS: No obstacle to better ties between Moscow, Riyadh

MOSCOW (R) — The official Soviet News Agency TASS said Sunday there were no obstacles to better ties between the Soviet Union and Saudi Arabia, the Gulf Arab state which has no diplomatic relations with Moscow.

A TASS commentator drew attention to contacts between the two countries in the last 60 years and said Moscow and Riyadh could achieve a great deal if they worked together for a Middle East peace settlement.

Last year the Kremlin boosted its diplomatic presence in the Gulf by establishing full relations with the United Arab Emirates and Oman, Kuwait, North Yemen and South Yemen are the only other states in the region to have missions in Moscow.

The TASS commentary underlined that the Soviet Union would not change its goal of improving relations with Gulf states despite upheavals in pro-Soviet South Yemen, where rival Marxist

factions fought a bloody battle for power last month.

"The Soviet Union has no controversial problems with Saudi Arabia, and nothing prevents the two countries from developing their relations," the TASS analyst, Viktor Lebedev, said.

He added: "The complicated nature of the international situation, the aggravation of the Middle East conflict through the fault of Israel and the growing tension in the Gulf area call for the activation of relations."

Lebedev said: "The Soviet Union and Saudi Arabia can do a great deal if they act jointly in settling the Middle East conflict. There is no doubt that the development of relations between the USSR and Saudi Arabia would benefit both states."

The commentary was issued to coincide with the 60th anniversary of a diplomatic note sent in 1926 in which the Soviet government recognised the new Saudi state.

It paid tribute to the then Saudi king, Abdul Aziz Ibn Abdur Rahman Al Faisal Ibn Saud, as "a wise and far-sighted politician (who) paid no heed to those who tried to intimidate him with some 'red threat'."

The Soviet Union has tried in recent years to strengthen its relations with Gulf states as part of a wider drive to boost its influence in the Middle East, an area where the United States, despite some setbacks, has played a more active role.

Apart from Saudi Arabia, the Kremlin is wooing Bahrain and Qatar in a policy that puts more emphasis on pragmatism than ideology, diplomats said.

They said Moscow was seeking to present itself as an alternative to the United States as a source of weapons and diplomatic support in the Middle East area, and added that the establishment of relations with Saudi Arabia would represent a significant breakthrough for the Kremlin.

Lebanese Jew found dead in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — The strangled body of a Lebanese Jew kidnapped by extremists was found in Beirut Sunday, hours after his abductors claimed they had killed him for spying for Israel, police said.

Police said the body of Ibrahim Benesti was found wrapped in wool blankets near a street market in the densely populated Barbir district of mostly Muslim west Beirut.

Benesti is the third Lebanese Jew killed in west Beirut in less than two months by an obscure group calling itself the organisation of the oppressed on earth.

The group, believed to make up of Muslim fundamentalists, has vowed to retaliate against the shelling of Shi'ite Muslim villages from Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon.

In Jerusalem, Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Ehud Gold reports that Israel "will do everything to defend Jews and we will not let them be harmed."

Gold did not say how Israel will defend Lebanon's Jews, estimated at less than 150.

Police sources, who asked not to be identified, said the body was "covered with bruises" and had two bullet wounds in the right shoulder and thigh. Benesti's neck was ringed with blue marks and his head bore scars of beatings, they said.

Benesti's body was found less than 12 hours after the group claimed to have broken up an Israeli spy ring and killed him.

In a statement delivered to a Western news agency in Beirut Saturday night, the group identified the three as Yehuda Benesti, Ibrahim Benesti and Youssef Benesti. It was not known if they were related.

U.N. body to curb influx of drugs to Arab World

By Regina Murgoth
Roulet

VIENNA — Camel trains winding through the Arabian deserts are carrying more tempting wares for today's youth of the Middle East than their traditional exotic burdens.

The camels, as well as trucks, donkeys, bicycles and even sheep, are being used as vehicles for the growing traffic of illicit Western-made pep pills to Arab states.

A United Nations drugs body meeting here has now responded to appeal from Arab states and imposed strict controls on the pills, known as Captagon, which have joined heroin and cannabis as a major element in the area's growing drugs scene.

Experts said widespread abuse of pep pills had emerged as a critical problem in the area in the last five years.

One senior Arab official at a recent U.N. Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) meeting estimated the controls agreed on the trade of Captagon could cost Western pharmaceutical firms about \$1 billion per year.

The move to include Captagon under the 1971 convention on psychotropic substances was taken after intense industry lobbying, conference delegates said.

The 40-member CND, the main U.N. policy-making drugs control body, voted 35 in favour of five abstentions to impose the curbs against the wishes of several Western states including West Germany, a major Captagon producer.

The abstaining states favoured laxer controls on the drug, which is used legitimately in the medical treatment of children and old people. Tighter controls were, however, backed by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The WHO representative to the meeting here, Dr. Inayat Khan, told Reuters he estimated the new controls would cut abuse of Cap-

tagon in Arab countries by some 80 per cent.

Under the controls exporters will now need an official certificate from the importing state requesting the drug.

A representative of a major West German Captagon manufacturer Degussa Pharma, who was observing the meeting, said he knew nothing about the estimate that the controls could cost Western firms about \$1 billion per year.

The representative, Klaus Leimkueller, would not reveal how much Captagon his firm produced or exported but said the drug had only a "small share" in his company's overall pharmaceutical exports.

The representative of the Arab League, Youssef Gharaibeh, told the conference there was widespread concern about abuse of the drug in the Arab World where 10 states were affected.

Arab sources named the countries as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Yemen, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

The pep pills, banned in most of these countries, were smuggled there mainly by sea through Lebanon, top Arab drug law enforcement sources said.

Gharaibeh quoted officials in one state as saying 65 per cent of all violent crime was committed under the influence of Captagon, which experts say has a strong stimulating effect that leads to a temporary increase in general alertness followed by a sense of anti-climax.

The sources said traffickers use all possible means of transport — camels, mules, donkeys, cars or bicycles — to smuggle the pills through the desert to the target countries. Police has even found the pills hidden in the fur of sheep.

Arab sources said that 20 million pills were seized in Saudi Arabia alone last year. They reckoned this was only 10 per cent of the amount being circulated.

Sudan politicians, rebels seek postponement of polls

KHARTOUM (AP) — An organisation of southern politicians and the main rebel group in Sudan have called on the government to postpone next April's elections until after peace talks with the insurgents, the daily Al Sahafa reported Sunday.

The paper said the South Sudan Political Association, the main political party in south Sudan, and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), the main rebel group in the south, signed an agreement to this effect earlier this month in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa.

It said the agreement called for the postponement of general elections until after peace talks with the SPLA, preferably outside Sudan, about the future system of government and fair distribution of national wealth and development.

Al Sahafa said the South Sudan Political Association, along with 13 other regional political parties and organisations and seven southern trade unions which comprise the Sudan Rural Solidarity Organisation, had decided in a meeting Thursday to send a memorandum to the ruling Transitional Military Council (TMC) and the cabinet warning against holding the elections before peace talks.

Southern groups have called for

the postponement of the elections until a national reconciliation meeting before, but the government has ignored the calls, and indicated voting in southern areas where fighting is ongoing will not take place.

The SPLA took up arms against the government in 1983. The rebels demand economic and administrative reforms and more autonomy.

Meanwhile a former Sudanese minister and other senior officials will be brought to trial on March 1 for a number of offenses involving Sigma, an affiliate of Triad International Group, owned by Saudi businessman Adnan Khashoggi.

Al Sahafa said Sunday.

The paper quoted Attorney General Omar Abdul Attie as saying an investigating committee had brought charges of violation of the constitution, instigating war against the state, harming the country's independence and its territorial integrity and subversion of the national economy against the defendants.

He said charges against ousted President Jaafar Numeiri and Khashoggi would be separated from the case due to their absence.

Sudan and Sigma signed the founding regulations of the National Oil Company of Sudan in December 1984.

Libyan financier kidnapped in Pakistan

KARACHI (R) — Gunmen kidnapped a Libyan businessman and his driver after opening fire in a Karachi street Sunday, police said.

Ahmad Mohammed Ammar, 40, deputy managing director of the Pakistan-Libya Holding (financial) Company Limited, was abducted while taking his eight-year-old son to school by car, the police said. The boy was left behind by the kidnappers.

Police said the gunmen were believed to be opponents of Col. Muammar Qaddafi's government in Libya but had not issued any demands for releasing Mr. Ammar.

Hundreds of police, including sharpshooters, were put on alert at Karachi's exit points after the abduction.

Eyewitnesses said the kidnappers blocked off Ammar's vehicle with two cars before seizing the businessman and his driver Iqbal Akbar.

Last Sunday a bomb exploded at the Karachi offices of the Pakistan-Libya Holding Company, killing one person and injuring eight.

Police said they had still not discovered who was responsible for the blast.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 775111	21:55 News Summary
MAIN CHANNEL	22:00 Evening Show Cont.
16:00 Koran	22:00 News Summary
16:20 Cartoons	23:00 Evening Show Cont.
16:40 Mickey Mouse	24:00 Close down
17:00 Children programmes	
17:50 Small Wonder	
18:15 Arabic Series	
19:20 Local programme on the Armed Forces	
20:00 News in Arabic	
20:30 Arabic series	
21:20 Local Comedy	
22:10 Tomorrow's programme	
22:15 Arabic Series: The Road to Jerusalem	
23:00 News in Arabic	
FOREIGN CHANNEL	
18:45 L'archipel aquitaine	
19:00 News in French	
19:30 Magazine Sportif (French)	
19:50 News in Hebrew	
20:20 News in Arabic	
20:30 Carol Burnett And Friends	
21:10 American Short Story	
22:30 News in English	
23:30 Dallas	
RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 9500 KHz. SW Tel: 774111-12	
07:00 Light Music	
07:30 Newsweek	
07:45 Morning Show	
10:00 News Summary	
10:05 Pop Session	
12:00 News Summary	
12:05 Pop Session Cont.	
13:00 News Summary	
13:05 Pop Session Cont.	
14:00 News Bulletin	
14:10 Instruments	
14:15 Over a Cup of Tea	
16:00 News Summary	
16:05 Instruments	
16:30 Old Favourites	
17:00 The 15th Century A.H.	
17:30 Pop Session	
18:00 News Summary	
18:05 Sports Round-up	
18:15 Newsweek	
19:30 Date with a Star	
20:00 Evening Show	
21:00 News Summary	
21:05 Evening Show Cont.	

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	EXHIBITIONS
	* An art exhibition by Hassan Agba at the Gallery of the Housing Bank complex (until March 6)
	* An art exhibition by Youssef Badami at the Spanish Cultural Centre (until Feb. 28)
	* British higher education fair (16-19 Feb.) — today's display at the Faculty of Engineering, University of Jordan between 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
	* American book exhibition at the University of Jordan's library.
	* French exhibition entitled: "Le Musée En Bulle" at the French Cultural Centre (until Feb. 23)
CULTURAL CENTRES	MUSEUMS
Royal Cultural Centre .. tel. 6610267	Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 16th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.
American Centre .. 644371	Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
British Council .. 636147/8	Jordan National Gallery: Contains collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Jordanian artists from most of the Muslim countries and a
French Cultural Centre .. 637009	
Goethe Institute .. 641992	
Soviet Cultural Centre .. 644205	
Spanish Cultural Centre .. 624049	
Turkish Cultural Centre .. 639777	
Fayez Arts Centre .. 665195	
British Film Centre .. 66710/6	
Y.W.C.A. .. 641793	
Y.W.M.C.A. .. 664251	
Amman Municipal Library .. 637111	
University of Jordan Library .. 643555	
CHURCHES	PRAYER TIMES
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic)	06:54 Fajr
Jabal Amman, tel. 624590	06:17 (Sunrise) Duha
Church of the Assumption (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lubdaba, 637440.	11:50 Dhuhr
De la Saie Church (Roman Catholic)	14:50 Asr
Jabal Hussein, 661757	17:23 Maghrib
Church of the Assumption (Greek Orthodox) Abadi, 623541.	18:46 Isha
Assiout Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 678906.	
Assiout Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 771331.	
Assiout Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 775261.	
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 771751.	

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	MARITIME TRAFFIC
This information is supplied by Alia Int. operation department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 524005, where it should always be verified.	Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:
	— Kola Waruna
	— Sharmila Karamir
	— Tamsar
	— Sergey Gusev
	Amin Kewar and Sons Company, Tel: 622324-9 at your service.
ARRIVALS	WEATHER
09:35 Kuwait (RJ)	Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
09:45 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)	Clouds will appear at different altitudes; light and variable winds will become southeasterly moderate. An increase in temperature is expected. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm seas.
09:45 Aqaba (RJ)	
10:00 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)	
10:00 Damascus (RJ)	
10:00 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)	
12:05 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)	
13:35 Doha (TK)	
13:45 Kuwait (RJ)	
15:10 Jeddah, Medina (SV)	
17:30 Cairo (RJ)	
18:15 Beirut (MEA)	
18:35 Cairo (MS)	
18:45 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)	
19:30 Bangkok (RJ)	
08:25 Baghdad (IA)	
DEPARTURES	MONEY EXCHANGE
06:45 Damascus, Athens (OA)	Sunday rates
06:45 Frankfurt (LH)	Local teller rates in JLD
08:30 Aqaba (RJ)	Bahraini dinar .. 360 968
11:30 Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ)	Dinar .. 134/4 206
	Egyptian guinea .. 200 352
12:00 Larnaca, Paris (RJ)	French franc .. 49/5 49/9
12:15 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)	Irish pound .. 344/ 352
13:30 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)	Japanese yen (for 100) 196/9 198/5
14:25 Istanbul (TK)	Kuwaiti dinar .. 1267/ 1274
15:00 Kuwait (RJ)	Lebanese lira .. 14/ 16
16:40 Medina, Jeddah (SV)	Omani rial .. 940 950
19:20 Cairo (MS)	Qatari riyal .. 99 101
19:30 Kuwait, Doha (RJ)	Saudi riyal .. 47/8 48/2
19:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)	Swedish crown .. 183/2 184/7
20:00 Damascus (RJ)	Syrian lira .. 23/ 25
20:10 Baghdad (RJ)	UAE dirham .. 98 100
20:15 Jeddah (RJ)	U.K. sterling pound .. 505/8 509/8
20:30 Cairo (RJ)	U.S. dollar .. 353/3 358/6
21:15 Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)	W. German mark .. 151/9 153/1

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate	891228
Amman civil defence	198, 199
Civil Defence Helpline	271293, 273131
Civil Defence Qawraqmah	770723
Ambulance	193, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade	198
First aid	630341
Blood bank	778303
Civil Defence rescue	661111
Fire headquarters	622090-3
Police rescue	192, 621111, 631777
Police headquarters	639141
Traffic police	896390/1
Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 624881	
Municipal water complaints	77125/8
Queen Alia Intl. Airport (08)5333060	

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Muhammad Lababneh	896560
Dr. Anwar Alkhalaf	93122
First Pharmacy	661912
Naturok pharmacy	623672
Ramallah pharmacy	666033
Salah pharmacy	666036

TAXIS:

Venecia taxi	644585
Al Abram taxi	663911
Melnyar taxi	644574
Assem taxi	844503
Alam taxi	666022
Al Nahar taxi	811619
Shmeisani taxi	665294

IRBID:

Dr. Hameed Anasrah	240759
Udeh pharmacy	242357
Al Far pharmacy	243661

ZARQA:

Dr. Saleh Safadi	(-)
Al Armal pharmacy	983501

GENERAL

Hassan Medical Centre	81381/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amman	644281/6
Al Heh Maternity, J. Amman	642461/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	660231
University Hospital	843845/6
Al-Musaber Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/3
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Mahajneh	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	77511/26
Army, Madaya	891641/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602248/30

Jordan Television	773111/19
Radio Jordan	774111/19
Ministry of Tourism	642311
Hotel complaints	666412
Price complaints	661176
Telephone Information	12
Jordan and Middle East calls	10
Overseas calls	17
Repeat service	11

MARKET PRICES

(Fixed prices for imported produce)

Upper/lower price in file per 100 kg	
Apple	200 / 450
Apple (green)	200 / 450
Best	100 / 70
Chestnut	700 / 600

Capers (each)	450 / 400
Garlic (without leaves)	700 / 650
Onion (dry)	180 / 140
Portulac	120 / 170
Sage (green)	280 / 200
Tomato	70 / 50

Hamzeh outlines benefits of new health regulations

AMMAN (J.T.) — New amendments to the civil health regulations in Jordan are designed to improve medical services to the public, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh said in a television interview Sunday evening.

The minister, who was commenting on a cabinet decision taken Sunday, said that for the first time in Jordan the health minister has been empowered to admit patients to private hospitals if there are insufficient beds in government hospitals. Under the amendment government employees, who finance the public health service through contributions from their salaries, can enjoy this right, he said.

Also for the first time, the health minister has the right to exempt needy patients from paying the cost of their medical treatment at government hospitals, provided they produce evidence supported by the Ministry of Social Development that they cannot pay.

According to the minister, the amendments also offer the chance to the family of a deceased government employee to enjoy medical treatment at government hospitals for three years free of charge.

Also during its normal session on Saturday, the cabinet has approved an executive programme for the implementation of a Jordanian-Egyptian agreement on cooperation in information affairs in 1986, 1987 and 1988.

The two countries undertake to cooperate in training personnel, exchanging programmes and expertise and helping each other in radio and television transmission services. The information ministers of Egypt and Jordan signed a protocol for the implementation of the programme in Cairo last week.

The cabinet also approved a programme of cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for the coming five years. Under the agreement, UNICEF will provide a \$1 million grant to health authorities in Jordan between 1986 and 1990. The cabinet authorised Planning Minister Abdullah Nusour to sign the agreement which will be carried out in cooperation with social development and health authorities in Jordan.

During his session the cabinet decided to convene the second Jordanian expatriates conference in Amman during the coming summer.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday opens a British higher education fair at the University of Jordan (Petra photo)

Prince Hassan opens higher education fair, calls for more ties with British universities

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday called for further Jordanian-British cooperation in higher education and said that academic degrees awarded by British universities are respected around the world, although such degrees have been facing increasing competition.

Prince Hassan, who was opening a week-long British higher education fair at the University of Jordan, said that Jordan remains open minded to new avenues of cooperation between Jordanian and British universities to enhance Jordan's technological and scientific capabilities. Jordan has established a number of high-level scientific centres and hopes to bolster its cooperation with British universities in the Kingdom's drive to improve the quality of education, Prince Hassan pointed out.

In his speech, Prince Hassan called on British universities to revise the rate of fees they charge Jordanian students so that more Jordanians can seek higher education in Britain. He also called for increasing the exchange of visits by students and teachers from both countries and launching joint studies and researches designed to serve the local community. Prince Hassan expressed hope that the functions to be held during the week would promote academic cooperation between the two countries.

Referring to higher education in Jordan, Prince Hassan said the three Jordanian universities and the 46 community colleges in the country have been absorbing large

numbers of Jordanian students seeking higher education. The latest statistics indicate that Jordan has one educational institute for every 50,000 students, compared with one for 62,000 students in the United States, the Crown Prince said adding that this reflects development in education in Jordan over the past three decades.

In Jordan, a doctorate degree is required not only for teachers at universities but also for those teaching at community colleges, Prince Hassan said.

He went on to say that higher education is becoming more expensive for the state which has been covering most of the education expenses at universities. Non-Jordanian students who form nearly five per cent of the total number of students at Jordan's universities, pay the same fees as their Jordanian colleagues, Prince Hassan pointed out.

Jordanian universities, he added, have made remarkable advances in engineering, agriculture and industrial research as well as archaeology and antiquities, and they are highly regarded throughout the Arab World.

Also speaking at the opening ceremony was Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali, president of the University of Jordan, who welcomed the participants to the meeting and referred to two agreements which the university recently signed with the Universities of London and Glasgow.

He said that the University of Jordan has become a leading regional centre and that the newly

established Faculty for Higher Studies has emerged because of the need to provide the local community with highly qualified personnel.

British Council Representative in Amman David Latta made a speech voicing appreciation to Prince Hassan for patronising the fair. He reviewed higher education developments in the United Kingdom and said only two per cent of Jordanians going to study abroad end up in British universities, despite the close ties between the two countries. Mr. Latta voiced hope that more agreements will be concluded between British and Jordanian universities and called for more British experts to help Jordan develop its higher education.

After the speeches, Prince Hassan watched a documentary on higher education in Britain and opened an exhibition of higher education materials including videos, prospectuses, and information sheets designed to answer all types of enquiries about first degree and postgraduate degree courses, tuition fees, accommodation and the cost of living in Britain.

The week-long fair is designed to foster links between Jordanian and British institutes of higher learning focusing on the exchange of academics, joint research programmes and special arrangements for Ph.D. courses.

Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath and deans of several university faculties attended the opening ceremony.

Orbis starts free eye operations today

Flying eye hospital, local staff to exchange skills, techniques in surgery

By Rama Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Medical staff of Project Orbis, the U.S.-based "flying eye hospital," Sunday demonstrated their surgical skills and ophthalmological equipment as they welcomed a group of senior Jordanian officials, key-ophthalmologists and reporters for a familiarisation tour on board their DC8 airliner at the military airport in Marqa.

Orbis arrived here Saturday from Baghdad for a three-week stay to exchange medical skills in ophthalmology. Doctors will be operating side-by-side with Jordanian doctors as well as exchanging hands-on surgical techniques during operations on local patients.

Ophthalmological surgery aboard Orbis will start Monday on local eye patients who have been pre-selected from the King Hussein Medical Centre (KHMC), the government-run Al Bashir Hospital and the University of Jordan Hospital.

Eye patients will receive free medical treatment on board the plane, but special cases, who need operations to be carried out in local hospitals have to pay for the hospital's expenses but not for the cost of the operation.

Project Orbis visited Jordan in 1983 on an invitation from Her Majesty Queen Noor. It is a private, non-profit international organisation, whose objective is to combat world blindness through an international exchange of skills and information dissemination between medical personnel.

There was no precise figure on the number of Jordanian patients expected to be treated and examined by Orbis during their 21-day programme in Jordan. Dr. Ibrahim Ayesah, head of the eye department at the KHMC, said that a few hundred patients will be examined. One of Orbis' three ophthalmologists, Dr. Stanley Walker, expects the number of patients to be four or five a day over five days per week. This amounts to an average of 70 eye patients during the mission, he told the Jordan Times.

During their three-week stay in Baghdad, Orbis carried out 41 eye-operations on board the airliner and 13 eye-surgeries in Ibn Al Haitham Hospital.

Government proposes rise in fees for work permits

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has reportedly submitted to parliament an amendment to the labour law which, among other things, raises the fee for a work permit for a non-Jordanian Arab to JD 25 instead of JD 10, and for a non-Arab to JD 75, up from JD 30 annually.

A report in the local Sawt Al Sha'ab Arabic daily said the amendment is designed to enable the Ministry of Labour to control the labour market in Jordan and to help find jobs for unemployed Jordanians, estimated at 40,000.

In an interview with the newspaper, Mr. Mohammad Hadi, director of the Amman Employment Department, said that the new set of fees would be imposed in March. The new amendment, he said, empowers the Ministry of Labour to send teams to carry out inspections at different businesses and companies to ensure that ministry regulations are respected. Employers found to be employing non-Jordanians in violation of the law will be fined up to JD 300 and could be imprisoned, Mr. Hadi said in the interview.

Job lists

He said that to help Jordanians find work, ministry teams will tour different organisations and will list vacant posts and job opportunities for Jordanians. When the lists have been compiled, unemployed people will be informed of the vacant posts.

Mr. Hadi said that as of March 1, non-Jordanian workers caught violating the Ministry of Labour law will be fined JD 75 maximum for each month delay in renewing the work permit or could be ordered to leave the country, with their travel expenses covered by the employer.

Work permits, he said, will be issued to non-Jordanians only if they prove to be capable of handling jobs and their application should be supported by a merit certificate from the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC).

According to the director of the Amman Labour Office, Mr. Ahmad Al Shawabkeh, from now on, no work permits will be issued to non-Jordanians seeking secretarial, clerical and accountancy jobs or to store keepers, teachers and workers in specific construction jobs. He said sufficient numbers of Jordanians are now available to do these jobs.

Opening ceremony

Prior to the familiarisation tour, the Royal Medical Services hosted an opening ceremony at the airport. Speakers in the celebration were Dr. Ayesah, KHMC Director General Da'oud Hanania, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Jordan Ophthalmological Society (JOS) President Cameron Nabil, Orbis' Director of External Affairs Penny Staples and one of the projects' three ophthalmologists, Dr. Stephen Slade.

The five speakers described Orbis as a very efficient programme which has served as a tool to combat blindness through an international exchange of skills between medical personnel. According to an Orbis press release, there are 42 million blind people and another 500 million people who suffer from potentially blinding eye disease. "If only current techniques and knowledge were available worldwide, two-thirds of this blindness could be eliminated," said Ms. Staples.

Ms. Staples told her audience that Orbis is a unique project and a practical response to this world wide problem of blindness. The project collects and disseminates surgical skills among medical personnel worldwide, whilst designing and implementing community eye care programmes in countries where it is appropriate, she added.

Project Orbis was launched in 1982 and since its inception it has circled the globe twice carrying out 52 missions in 38 countries.

Prince Ra'd, who also is president of the Jordan Eye-Bank Society, made a speech in which he called on Orbis to establish a centre in the United States to assess its operations. He said that this would give this excellent humanitarian project a sense of continuity and future vision. The project has been very useful in transferring ophthalmological technology and eye-surgery techniques and services, he said.

The opening ceremony was attended by U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Paul Becker and visiting

U.S. Senator Charles Mathias as well as ophthalmologists from the KHMC and the private sector.

Dr. Slade paid tribute to the standard of Jordan's medical community which, he said, was well-known and has had international expertise in open heart surgery and organ transplantation. Our main purpose remains to the exchange of skills, ophthalmological teachings and techniques," with the host country's doctors, Dr. Slade said.

Budget

An Orbis press release issued Sunday said that two-thirds of the projects' annual budget is provided by the United States Agency for International Development, while a large portion of its medical supplies, medical equipment and financial support is donated by corporations, foundations and individuals across the world.

The DC8 airliner was donated to Orbis by the U.S.-based United Airlines and its refurbishment to convert it into a flying hospital cost \$8 million, the craft's flight engineer Eric Friedrichson told the Jordan Times.

Orbis' 24-member crew and medical staff consists of six doctors, six nurses, technicians, pilots, public relations officers and coordinators, who are all American citizens except for the nurse anaesthetist and chief nurse who are Danish and Canadian respectively.

The project's nine international visiting faculty ophthalmologists come from the U.S., Canada, France and the United Kingdom, and Dr. Slade said that the host country usually selects the visiting faculty doctors, who are specialised in different areas of plastic surgery, glaucoma, cornea surgery, cornea and cataract techniques as well as retinal specialists and cornea grafting specialists.

The aircraft has been divided into eight compartments according to the various stages of eye-surgery procedures: The examination room, an 18-seat class room, an audio-visual control room, the scrubbing-up area, the main operating theatre, the sterilisation area, the instrument and supplies room, a recovery compartment — which is also used for receiving patients — and the toilets.

Video cameras, films

Video cameras link the theatre and the recovery room with the class room, where doctors, nurses and anaesthetists get the chance to

observe the eye-surgery operations.

Mr. Ozzie Font, who operates the video cameras, told the Jordan Times that his control room is equipped with video-film editing machine on which he carries out all the editing on various films of the operations and he later presents them to the host country which uses them for ophthalmological purposes.

Nurse Jane Hampton, from New York and who has participated in four Orbis missions, describes her profession as "wonderful" although she spends quite a lot of time away from home. Mrs. Hampton, who is married to an Orbis ophthalmologist, said that each nurse working in the project has to be very familiar with ophthalmology.

Ms. Winnie Osborn, the chief nurse who is from Canada, says that the project has provided her with the best "nursing experience" through interacting with international nurses and health care organisations.

Ms. Julie DiBiase, an American of Italian origin, continues that the staff on Orbis are here to teach and to be taught. "It is not the quantity of cases that interests us but the quality of cases and the experience which benefits both sides," she added.

On March 1, Orbis will celebrate its fourth anniversary and on April 8 it will leave to Alexandria, Egypt, on a similar three-week mission. After this, it will leave to Malta from where it will return to the U.S..

After a two-week rest in America, where each member of staff will have the time and chance to see their parents, Orbis will start a mission to central America, which will last for 18 months.

The Orbis visit to Jordan has been organised by the Royal Medical Services in cooperation with the JOS.

Types of surgery

Major eye operations which Orbis has performed on board of the airliner are: corneal grafts where the cornea of an eye donor is grafted into a new person's eye; cataract surgery in which doctors extract extra capsular cataracts with inter-ocular lens implants which is one of the most common eye surgeries although cataract patients are almost blind; plastics surgery which take place outside the eye such as in case of fallen-eye lids or where a tear duct is implanted. Glaucoma, which is the major cause of blindness, is also treated aboard Orbis.



His Highness Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid and the Director of the Royal Medical Corps, Maj.-Gen. Da'oud Hanania, Sunday visit Project Orbis, the Flying Eye Hospital, which arrived in Amman Saturday (Petra photo)

Jordanians appeal for Syrian action to end war

(Continued from page 1)

aiman Hadidi (former president of the Bar Association), Mr. Ibrahim Abu Ayash (president of the Jordanian Engineers Association), Mr. Jaafar Al Shami, Mr. Yasser Amer (PNC member), Salem Massadeh, Senator Abdullah Rahman Khalifeh, Mr. Bahjat Abu Gharibeh (PNC member), Suleiman Arar (former minister and National Consultative Council speaker), Dr. Hani Al Khasawneh, Mr. Salim Al Zoghbi, Dr. Jamal Al Shaer (former minister and NCC member), Dr. Said Al Taji (former minister), Dr. Ghaleb Al Sabarini (president of the Pharmaceutical Association), Mr. Ali

Abu Al Ragheb, Mrs. Laila Sharaf (former information minister and NCC member), Deputy Fawzi Toweimeh Daoud, Mr. Mahmoud Al Kayed (president of the Press Association), Mr. Rakan Al Majali (a prominent journalist), Mr. Fahd Al Rimawi (a columnist), Mr. Abdul Rahim Omar (a prominent poet), Mr. Tareq Al Masarweh (editor-in-chief of Sawt Al Shaab daily and a columnist), Mr. Abdul Salam Al Tarawneh, Dr. Mohammad Jweidan Al Jamal, Mr. Jawdat Al Sbul, Mr. Hani Abu Hijleh, Dr. Fawzi Al Sambouri, Mr. Abdul Majed Shreideh, Dr. Hamdi Khasawneh, Dr. Matar Awad, Mr. Khaled Mah-

adeen (journalist), Dr. Walid Marraqa (president of the Dentists Association), Dr. Yahya Khreis, Deputy Mohammad Al Haj Abdullah, Dr. Kamel Ajlouni (former minister), parliament members Rizq Al Bataineh and Zohair Zouqan Hussein, Mrs. Haifa Al Bashir (president of the Federation of Jordanian Women), Mr. Abdullah Ababneh, Dr. Tarad Al Qadi, Dr. Adif Dalal, Mr. Awni Al Masri (former minister), Dr. Saleh Erseideh, Dr. Hassan Khreis (president of Jordan's Medical Association), and Mr. Ghassan Kamahawi (president of the Agricultural Engineers Association).

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nsour to discuss loans with Saudi fund

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour left for Riyadh Sunday at the invitation of Saudi Arabian Minister of Finance and National Economy Mohammad Al Khail. The minister said that his talks with the Saudi minister and with officials of Saudi Fund for Development will cover a number of projects in Jordan financed by the fund and will explore possibilities of the fund financing other projects included in the five-year plan. Dr. Nsour said Jordan hopes to obtain loans from the fund to help finance the construction of hospitals, wastewater treatment plants, irrigation projects and water networks. The minister is accompanied by a three-member delegation.

Hamzeh leaves for Prague

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh left for Prague Sunday on a week-long official visit to Czechoslovakia during which he will sign an agreement for health cooperation in public health and medical sciences fields between Jordan and Czechoslovakia. Dr. Hamzeh will also acquaint himself with health service regulations there.

Yarmouk to attend engineering talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Yarmouk University is to take part in an international engineering conference which will be held in London at the beginning of next month. The conference will be discussing engineering studies on the latest advances in engineering submitted by scholars and scientists from various countries of the world. Dr. Abdul Rahim Makki from the Faculty of Engineering will represent the university in the conference with a scientific paper on electrical engineering.

Ministry discourages begging at mosques

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has called on the public not to encourage begging in front of mosques and places of worship as this is against the teachings of Islam. Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat issued a circular to the directors of Awqaf departments asking them to try and stop this practice by highlighting the negative reflection of begging on the image of Islam and Muslims during sermons.

More doctors in government hospitals

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Health Ministry last year appointed 205 general practitioners and 29 specialists at its various hospitals and medical centres in the country, raising the number of other doctors to 1,123, up from 889 in 1984, according to a ministry spokesman quoted by Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper. He said that the appointments will help reduce the number of unemployed doctors and raise the working capacity of the Ministry of Health. During 1985, the spokesman added, 362 interns were offered the chance to acquire training at the ministry's hospitals.

British unionists gather facts on Palestine issue

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation from the British Transport and General Workers' Union left Amman Sunday for the occupied West Bank on a four-day fact-finding mission. The five-man delegation is expected to gather information from Palestinian refugees and inhabitants of the Israeli-held territory to present a report to the union's general executive.

The delegation, which was invited to Jordan by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Sunday met with Palestine National Council Speaker Abdul Hamid Al Sa'eh who briefed them on the latest developments in the Palestine problem. The Pal-

estinian people, he said, cling hard to their national rights in their homeland under the leadership of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Sheikh Sa'eh spoke of Israel's inhuman practices and other violations in the occupied Arab lands and desecration of holy Christian and Islamic places.

On Sunday afternoon the delegation visited Baqa'a refugee camp where they met with residents and inspected their living conditions.

Following their visit to the West Bank the delegation will return to Amman.

Jordan takes part in talks on world phosphate markets

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has taken part in a meeting of world phosphate producing and exporting countries which was held recently in Casablanca to discuss ways of supporting and developing the industry and the marketing of phosphates. Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) Director General Wasef Azar, who represented Jordan at the meeting, said that the talks aimed to support resolutions of a seminar on the use of phosphate fertilisers held in India last month.

The meeting also aimed at forming committees from phosphate producing countries to conduct

studies and applied researches on the world's consumption of phosphate fertilisers. He also pointed out that research seminars on fertilisers will be held. He also said that research centres in various countries of the world will be contacted to conduct agricultural studies and to stress the positive results of the use of fertilisers.

During the three-day meeting, participants also discussed a number of topics related to contacts with financing institutions and international organisations to contribute to financing the necessary studies and researches, Mr. Azar concluded.

Rains replenished underground water reserves, Keilani says

AMMAN (J.T.) — The amount of water that fell in Jordan over the past two days is estimated to be 40 per cent of the total amounts that fell during the present rainy season so far, according to Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) Director Mohammad Saleh Al Keilani.

He said in an interview with Jordan Television that the rain will increase the underground water reserves and that rains in late February and March in pre-

vious years were enough to replenish underground water reserves, used for drinking purposes. He said that the amount of underground water is sufficient for the country at present.

Interviewed in the same programme, Dr. Salem Butros Salem, director of the Agricultural Information Department at the Ministry of Agriculture, said that the amounts of rain which fell in the past two days will encourage farmers to sow crops and plant trees.

Jordan Times

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More for higher education

IT IS the belief of many Jordanians that higher education should be available for all people on equal basis, and that universities ought to offer a chance for a greater number of students to acquire further studies beyond the secondary school level. A university degree in Jordan has always been regarded as a passport for employment, and indeed, a university degree is generally viewed by government departments as criteria not only for classifying employees in jobs to match their specialisation but also for higher pay and more responsible positions that naturally lead on to a better social status.

In fact university education is the supreme ambition of most of our secondary school graduates. But relatively few of them are lucky enough to win seats and many who fail the attempt, tend to seek higher education abroad. The government, in its bid to meet the aspirations of the young generation has opened community colleges, vocational training centres and polytechnic institutes to offer students higher education outside the universities. It also created a ministry of higher education to organise work at these institutes and coordinate work with universities and other high institutions of learning.

In his speech at the opening of a week-long British higher education fair in Amman yesterday, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan pointed out that for every 50,000 students in Jordan there is one institute of higher learning, a relatively good rate compared even with developed nations. Prince Hassan also urged British universities to step up their cooperation with Jordanian universities specially in scientific and technological fields. But while we vehemently support the Crown Prince's call for continuously improving the standards of our universities through cooperation with advanced institutes in other nations, we have to admit that it is extremely difficult for a country like ours to have more universities. Then it becomes only reasonable to suggest that the existing ones should offer a greater chance to a larger number of students to get higher learning, and also advanced education and technology. If the existing 40,000 students at our universities pay only a fraction of the cost of their education at present, more students will pay more, and there will be a greater chance for all. In this way the country would not only be offering a chance to more students but would be saving millions of dinars now being spent abroad on education that could be obtained at home.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Peace in the Mideast

DESPITE the encouraging statement by the West German Foreign Minister on the need for enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination, we feel that nothing will be meaningful unless practical steps are taken on the part of the European Community, of which West Germany is a member, to re-establish justice in our region. The Europeans have been used to giving the Arabs lip service only while at the same time helping the cause of Zionism in our region. It was due to the European Community's influence, and possibly pressure, that Spain which has just joined the group recognised Israel and established diplomatic relations with Tel Aviv. So far the European Community has taken no real practical step to bring about a change in U.S. policies with regard to the Palestine problem and no European action has been taken to make Israel think of reducing its intransigence and showing signs of willingness to make peace. We do not ask that the European Community act for the Arabs in their struggle to regain their rights, but what is required from the Europeans is to exert meaningful efforts for pressuring the U.S. and Israel to accept a just peace.

Al Dustour: Israeli aggression

AN annual report issued by the U.S. State Department on events and developments in 1985 mentions an increase in violent activity inside the occupied Arab territories and stringent Israeli restrictions on the Arab population. Despite the fact that mild words were used in the report to describe the situation in the Israeli-held territory, the report stands out as clear evidence about Israel's malpractices. The report, though void of any mention of many atrocities and inhuman practices against the Arabs, should be regarded as a certificate of conduct for Israel issued by Tel Aviv's closest ally and patron. On the other hand, the U.S. Congress which normally endorses any amounts of aid to America's friends and allies continues to overlook Israel's malpractices and acts of repression against the Arabs and continues to pass bills allowing the Jewish state to obtain more and more U.S. arms and aid. It is this vast and unlimited military and financial aid which Israel gets that enables it to carry on arbitrary policies against the Arabs and to confiscate their lands and property. The U.S. administration, which every day witnesses fresh evidence of Israel's atrocities and human rights violations in the occupied Arab lands, should adopt a more balanced attitude that would retain for the Americans a little credibility and respect.

Sawt Al Shaab: National responsibility

It is almost a week now since the start of the new Iranian offensive against Iraq during which the Iraqi armed forces offered additional sacrifice to defend their land and the Arab nation. Reports from the war front speak of successes which the armed forces are achieving in their struggle to repel aggression and to deal a devastating final blow to the remnants of the invading force. In the Arab arena, the new offensive opened our eyes to many facts and revealed realities and intentions of those Arabs who chose to side with Iraq's enemies and those who are now involved in fighting for others on non-Arab land without any aim. The new Iranian offensive was aimed at occupying the west bank of the Gulf region, which means a number of Arab Gulf states exactly like Israel's onslaught on the Arabs which enabled them to occupy the West Bank of Jordan and other parts of Arab land as well. The Iran-Iraq war should form an integral part of the overall Arab effort to fight against the enemies of the Arab people and repel Zionism and imperialism. A total Arab confrontation with the Iranian aggressors and a concerted Arab effort to deter the Iranians from further acts of aggression is a national responsibility for all Arab countries.

Philippines' election crisis revives debate over U.S. bases

By Carol Giacomo
 Renter

MANILA — The Philippine election crisis have revived debate over the future of two U.S. military bases seen as vital to America's defence role in the Pacific. President Reagan touched off a storm last week when he hinted his main concern was protecting Subic Bay naval base and Clark Air base rather than whether the elections were free and fair. "One cannot minimise the importance of those bases... I don't know anything more important than the Philippine bases," Reagan said as he ordered special envoy Philip Habib to probe widespread charges of fraud and meet President Ferdinand Marcos and challenger Corason Aquino. Two key senators, Democrat Sam Nunn and Republican majority leader Robert Dole, said the United States may have to shift

the bases if Marcos wins by fraud and political unrest erupted into civil war.

Dole said he would table legislation requiring the Pentagon to accelerate contingency plans for moving the bases. And Nunn, a defence expert, said that while Clark and Subic Bay are important, they can only serve the United States effectively "if the Philippine people want us there."

The United States has had a base agreement with the Philippines since 1947, after granting independence to its former colony in return for economic privileges and the right to maintain military installations on the islands.

Over the past two years, senior U.S. officials and politicians have repeatedly stressed that Washington cared as much — or more — about the Philippine people and ending Marcos' autocratic rule as it did about protecting the

bases. But Reagan has now set back that effort, U.S. sources say.

The importance of Subic Bay and Clark is unquestioned. The largest American military bases outside the United States, they are central to the defence plans of pro-Western countries in southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

They guard the flow of oil and other commerce through the Indian Ocean, the Strait of Malacca and the South China Sea.

Subic Bay, valued at \$1.1 billion, supports the navy's seventh fleet with its 90 ships, 550 aircraft and 70,000 uniformed men. Its workers service 250 ships a year.

"The geostrategic location of the Philippines is unsurpassed with regard to meeting these national security commitments," Deputy Assistant Defence Secretary James Kelly told Congress last December.

The bases played a major role in the U.S. military buildup during the Vietnam war. In 1975, they assumed added importance when Moscow took over the abandoned U.S. base at Cam Ranh Bay and made it the biggest complex of its kind outside the Soviet Union.

Without Clark and Subic "the Soviets would be allowed free access to the South China Sea," U.S. senate analysts said in a 1985 report.

Despite such strong support, the political foment that prompted the February 7 Philippine election and the rapid rise of the Communist insurgency has forced the Pentagon since 1982 to look at alternative sites.

Contingency plans include dispersing forces to existing U.S. bases in Guam, Okinawa, Japan and Korea. Washington has also leased 18,000 acres on the Marianas island of Tinian and signed a pact with the Micronesian state of

Palau giving U.S. armed forces access to a large airport and harbour.

While such alternatives are feasible, military strategists are reluctant to abandon the Philippines and move further away from Cam Ranh Bay.

The cost of moving has been put at more than \$5 billion and would take eight years. Analysts also predict costs would skyrocket amid efforts to replace low-paid but highly-skilled Filipino workers.

Marcos is on record as supporting renewal of the base agreement when it expires in 1991. Aquino had called for removal of the bases but said after she became a candidate that she would keep her options open.

She and her supporters are angry at Reagan for failing to condemn alleged election fraud by Marcos and to declare that Washington will not tolerate the 68-

year-old president taking power for a fourth term.

But most U.S. analysts say it would be difficult for any Philippine government to evict the bases for one very practical reason: They are the country's second largest employer and inject \$300 million a year into the economy.

At the very least, it seems certain that whoever is president, the United States would be asked to agree to tougher terms — including increased aid for the Philippines — when the base agreement renegotiations begin in 1988.

Reagan has pledged his "best effort" to get Congress to allocate "900 million in military and economic aid over five years, about 180 million per year."

But pressure is mounting in Congress to cut that figure or hold funds in escrow if Marcos remains president.

On the legal status of the Gulf of Sirte

WHILE the United States Sixth Fleet last month sailed perilously close to Libya's Gulf of Sirte, as part of Washington's response to alleged Libyan involvement in the terrorist attacks at Rome and Vienna airports in December, American officials were dismissing Tripoli's claim that the Gulf forms part of its territory. Washington insists that the Gulf is an international waterway, to which American warships should have unhindered access.

Media reports of the crisis, however, showed a poor grasp of the legal issues. Generally, waters immediately off a coast are either territorial or internal. The latter comprise bays less than 24 nautical miles across at their mouths, and the state has absolute sovereignty. In territorial waters,

which usually extend 12 miles offshore, the state's sovereignty is total, except that foreign ships have the right of innocent passage.

At its first meeting, in 1958, however, the U.N. Conference on the Law of the Sea drew up a Convention which also recognised the concept of "historic bays", defining them as entities which exceed the size limits relating to internal waters, and over which the coastal state, by virtue of traditional use, exercises the same level of sovereignty as it does over internal waters.

Libya claims the Gulf of Sirte not as part of its territorial or internal waters, but as a historic bay. In its claim, dated Oct. 9, 1973, Tripoli asserted that "through history and without any dispute, the Libyan Arab Republic has ex-

ercised sovereignty over the Gulf." The declaration also stated that Libyan sovereignty was essential for national security, and that ships of other states could not be allowed to enter the Gulf without prior permission.

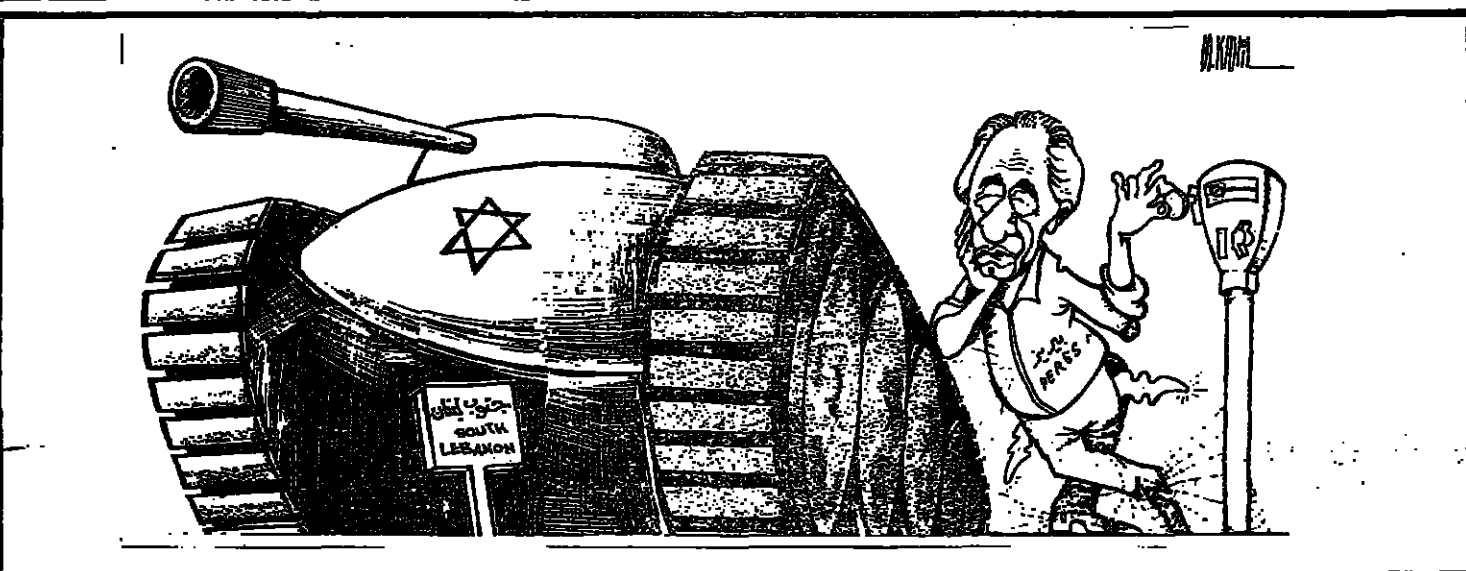
The claim was by no means unique. Well over fifty historic bays have been declared, including the Bristol Channel, Long Island Sound, Hudson's Bay and Tunisia's Gulf of Gabes.

Washington's objections to the Libyan claim date from February 1974. The United States argues that Libyan authority in the Gulf of Sirte has never been continuous, recognised and effective.

U.S. claims regarding the Gulf were widely publicised in August 1981, when American carrier-

based fighters shot down two Libyan planes over the waterway. Then, however, as in this year's crisis, Washington was using its position on navigation rights as a pretext. The real objective was to provoke an armed confrontation with Libya.

As Dr. Gerald Blake, a lecturer in political geography at Durham University, told the Bulletin: "If the Americans were seriously interested in determining the legal status of the Gulf of Sirte, rather than in putting pressure on Libya, they would take the matter to the International Court of Justice in The Hague. To my knowledge, no efforts have been made in that direction." — Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding.



France faces spectre of fresh Chad war involvement

By Chris Peterson
 Renter

PARIS — France, which successfully withdrew its ground forces from the mire of the Chad civil war two years ago, now faces fresh entanglement there.

President Hissene Habre's government has appealed for French help after renewed fighting with Libyan-backed rebel forces.

Socialist President Francois Mitterrand has opted to take a firm line over the latest crisis to hit the former African colony. French troops based in the neighbouring Central African Republic went on alert amid unconfirmed reports that French Jaguar strike planes had moved to Bangui.

Western diplomats here are convinced that Mitterrand will respond positively to Habre's appeal for help but will stop short of committing ground forces requested by the Chad leader.

Secret negotiations with Libya in 1984 led to the withdrawal of a strong French military contingent sent to Chad two years before to

act as a buffer between Habre's men and the Libyan-backed rebels of former President Goukouni Oueddei.

Although the then French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson warned that if Libyan troops went back, "we will be back," the diplomats felt it was unlikely then would.

The diplomats said it was more likely that Mitterrand, who faces legislative elections in March that look certain to spell defeat for his Socialist government, would choose to use French air power in a brief but spectacular show of strength rather than take the political risk of sending in ground forces.

However, others said the rapidly deteriorating situation in Chad, with heavy fighting reported at Ziguin, only 300 km from the capital N'Djamena, could allow Mitterrand to make a decisive move to prove foreign policy was still very much the president's domain.

France has already stepped up supplies of military hardware, in-

cluding light tanks and ammunition. The civil war in Chad, which has rumbled on for more than 20 years since France granted independence, has seen a series of bizarre shifts in terms of relationships.

At one point France backed the government of Goukouni before he was ousted by the rebels led by Habre, now president. At that time Habre was backed by Libya. Western diplomats said France had never really forgiven Habre for what France says was the murder of Major Pierre Galopin, a French officer sent to negotiate the release of a French woman being held hostage by rebels led by the current president.

Western diplomats said, however, that Paris had adopted a pragmatic view that Habre, with a better-organised private army, was the strongest of the Chad warlords. The influential daily Le Monde summed up the situation in Chad and France's relationship with its one-time colony under the headline "An Irritating Dossier."

It said that the fresh outbreak of fighting could not have come as a surprise to France.

"For several weeks now there has been the sound of boots marching. Only last December Mr. Mitterrand took the opportunity of issuing a severe warning to Libya at the Franco-African summit, a clear warning to the Libyan leader that he would not allow him to develop an aggressive policy towards a friendly country without reacting in some fashion."

Prime Minister Laurent Fabius, on the electoral trail in south-west France, said on Friday that France would not stand idle. "France will respect its promises, election period or no election period," he told reporters.

Both Mitterrand and Fabius said a final decision would not be taken until they had had a chance to listen to a first-hand report from Defence Minister Paul Quilès on his return from an inspection tour.

LETTERS

His master's voice

To the Editor

This has reference to Rev. Musa Adeli's article in the issue of Jordan Times, Feb. 4, 1986 and the letter to the editor by Mr. Emmanuel J. Contreras, charge d'affaires, Philippine embassy, Amman, in the issue of Jordan Times, Feb. 12, 1986.

Someone has said that an ambassador is a person sent to another country to lie for his own country. Be that as it may, people who are aware of world affairs tend to take with a pinch of salt all what the diplomats say exultingly about their own country. Generally, diplomats keep a judicious silence over matters that are likely to evoke controversy rather than provide any constructive understanding in a host country. But Mr. Contreras seems to be wanting to have the last word on every issue. His irrepressible urge to head every ball into the net makes him hardly discern between his own net and that of his opponent.

Rev. Musa Adeli expressed his impressions of the socio-political scene in the Philippines rather dispassionately as any visitor to the country would do. Mr. Contreras, in his letter, tried to refute those impressions of Rev. Musa Adeli. But the method Mr. Contreras adopted unfortunately seems to be typically a Marcos' one — a method of implicit insinuation intended to depict the writer as an insignificant and incapable person and therefore his impressions to be treated as trivial and inconsequential by the readers.

Rev. Musa Adeli is the director of Caritas in Jordan. But Mr. Contreras dismisses Caritas by saying that it is a "sort of religious-charitable institution." Surprising that Mr. Contreras feigns ignorance of Caritas which is a U.N. recognised aid-cum-relief agency, having an active operational network in 124 countries in the world, including his own country. Caritas, not only, is engaged in charitable works worldwide, its function also includes defence of human rights wherever it may be. If Rev. Musa Adeli has hinted at human rights violations in his impressions about the socio-political scene in the Philippines, it is within his rights to do so. By boldly giving expression to it, he has no axe to grind.

Mr. Contreras tries to sidetrack the attention of the readers from the pathetic situation in the Philippines by attempting to cast doubts on the ability of Rev. Musa Adeli to collect such impressions within a period of four days. For one thing, Rev. Musa's visit to Manila was not intended for a tailored research programme, quite appetising to the ruling clique; for another, to gather impressions one need not be in Manila even for three hours.

Mr. Contreras says that the Philippine constitution provides for the separation of state and church; nonetheless some religious people and Church are interfering in state matters. Church-state separation is all right but no Church will ever remain silent when people's fundamental rights are violated; and the Church in the Philippines has been very vocal in condemning the rule of oppression and terror.

Mr. Contreras need not state the obvious that the Philippine government is also helping at least some people to find a comfortable living in the villages by offering them incentives. "They also live from the crumbs that fall from the master's table." The question is who gets those crumbs.

Nobody would grudge if Mr. Contreras would put forward his country's views squarely to the public. Nobody would object his trying to refute contrary impressions and arguments. But it would be quite unfair if he were to use implicit insinuations to cast aspersions on personalities, like Rev. Musa Adeli or call into question the bona fide of Caritas here or in the Philippines. The readers can easily discover such facile cover-up tactics.

Anderson Colbe
 Amman.

Of turtles, fish and weeds

To the Editor:

THE NEWS THAT Ferdinand Marcos was reelected to presidency for another six years was hardly surprising, coming from a land where even turtles go to the polling booths to vote for Marcos (Column 8, Jordan Times, Feb. 15, 1986).

We could have been only surprised if the Philippine parliament, which took upon itself the task of counting the votes and declaring the winner in the presidential race, had announced Marcos' defeat. The parliament could have done anything else, including selling their land to creatures from outer space, but not announcing the incumbent president failed to win the people's mandate. Oh! boy, would it not have been something for the world to witness had the parliament followed the accepted norms of democracy and decided to be just and fair to the very people it is supposed to represent. For a start, it is doubtful that many parliamentarians could have got home in one piece after such a fiasco for Marcos.

Sorry, we have a little hearing problem. How much did you say Marcos' majority was? One and a half million votes? Are you sure? Don't tell us tomorrow it was eight and a half million.

On second thoughts, why not eight and a half million? But this time please make sure you include the fish from Subic Bay, that is if the fish agree to be associated with Marcos' name. For good measures, consult those fenceposts around the Clark Air base, for those are the earthly things that would believe that Marcos had a majority of 1.5 million votes.

If only had a cute little woman called Cory Aquino not been around, Marcos would not have had to go through the exercise of calling the "snap elections," as someone would like to name it, and "rigging the polls" as well as the counting process. In any event, Marcos did help the process of advancing computer technology by ordering his clique to "fix" those nasty machines which have a tendency to tell the truth.

Well, the people of the Philippines, we could only congratulate you on having the same old president for another six years. Who knows, he could teach the world some more lessons in shamelessness and treachery, and exercises in the game to retain the trappings of power.

Miguel Perera
 Amman, Jordan

TENDER'S NOTICE

The directorate of projects/Ministry of Education announce the issuing of the following tenders which are part of the Fourth Educational Projects No. 2068-JO sponsored by the World Bank (Tafilah Polytechnic).

Tender No.	Title	Fees JD	Tender No.	Title	Fees JD
1/86	General furniture	10,000	18/86	Mining processing lab.	20,000
2/86	Laboratory furniture	5,000	19/86	Geology & mineralogy	20,000
3/86	Labs. chemicals	5,000	20/86	Steam generation lab.	10,000
4/86	Labs. glassware	5,000	21/86	Mineral Processing equip.	10,000
5/86	Physics lab. equip.	10,000	22/86	Electric power lab.	10,000
6/86	Chemical eng. lab. equip.	10,000	23/86	Mineral dressing w/shop	10,000
7/86	General science lab.	10,000	24/86	Electrical w/shop machines	10,000
8/86	Basic training w/shop	10,000	25/86	Elec. Protection and control	5,000
9/86	Diesel w/shop	10,000	26/86	Elec. Transmission & Distr.	10,000
10/86	Woodwork w/shop	5,000	27/86	Basic fittings	10,000
11/86	Electric w/shop	5,000	28/86	Electric hand tools	5,000
12/86	Strength of materials	10,000	29/86	Woodworking hand tools	5,000
13/86	Central Heating w/shop	10,000	30/86	Diesel hand tools	5,000
14/86	Survey equip.	10,000	31/86	Kitchen equip.	15,000
15/86	Mechanical Eng. Lab.	10,000	32/86	Laundry equip.	15,000
16/86	Thermodynamic lab.	10,000	33/86	Sports Equip.	10,000
17/86	Drilling (Mud) lab.	10,000	34/86	Audiovisual aids	10,000

Interested bidders are invited to collect tender documents from procurement division at the Directorate of Projects- Ministry of Education starting February 15, 1986 and until Feb. 27, 1986 against the payment of the above fees.

Closing date will be 10:00 a.m. of April 20, 1986.

Director of projects

War, party policy bring Afghan women out into public life

Like Afghan men, they have also been called on to complement the government's Soviet-backed army. Officials say about 6,000 women do guard duty like Shakila in the Kabul area alone.

They had no figures for armed women in the provinces where, as visiting Western journalists saw in Jalalabad, Afghan men's traditional supremacy seems less threatened.

One of the most obvious changes has been on the work front, where 270,000 women now hold down jobs compared with only 5,000 before the 1978 coup in this backward mountain country.

Afghanistan has an official population of 15 million but Western states claim 4.5 million people have fled Communist rule.

"We would have a labour shortage here if women did not work," said Roshia Khaliliyar, a party activist responsible for the 313 women on Bagrami's 1,064-strong staff.

Nazari Gul, a gruff middle-aged mechanic at the Jangalak metal works in Western Kabul, said he accepted the female invasion there. "We're expanding so we will need even more."

Two shy machine operators at Jangalak, Najiba, 31, and Aeenaba, 23, said they had both started only five months ago.

Najiba's husband was now in the army and Aeenaba's had gone to study in the Soviet Union.

The relative absence of young men, many of whom are in the army, the rebel ranks or in exile, has also flung open the doors for women at places like Kabul University.

More than half the 8,800 students there are women, a highly unusual situation for a Muslim country where many men think any education for females is a waste of time.

Jamila Naheed, executive committee member of the official Democratic Women's Organisation of Afghanistan (DWOA), agreed the war had pushed women into male jobs unusually quickly.

But the change could not have come about without a clear decision by the party to give women more rights, said Naheed, one of only six women among Kabul's 150 law graduates in 1973.

"Now women and girls can come out and take part in public life because they know the government supports them," she said.

One of the first social reforms the party decreed after seizing power was a ban on the widespread practice of buying wives, a custom that even allowed expecting parents to promise buyers unborn children if they turned out to be girls.

A minimum marriage age of 16 was set.

The DWOA, which is headed

by Afghanistan's first woman doctor and the only female member of the party's politburo, Anahita Ratebzad, also runs weekly work groups for women students, workers, peasants and housewives to promote the new approach.

"We tell them they're half the population," Naheed said. "We tell them about famous women around the world, about women's struggles for their rights everywhere."

This must be heady stuff for the women in cities and rural areas who hear it. Before 1978, about 98 per cent of all Afghan women were illiterate and knew little about the world beyond their mud houses and meagre farmlands.

It appears a bit too fast for some men as well.



Afghan women take part in a military parade in the streets of Kabul on 1979 (Gazeta/photo)

Abdul Wahid Sarobi, a cabinet adviser on education in his 60s, assured journalists that the unusually high number of women students at Kabul University was "only a transitory phenomenon."

But Naheed, told he predicted a change once the war is over, reacted as any good feminist should. "It cannot go down," she shot back. "It must increase."

control has been much slower to develop. It is probably premature to talk of markets for advanced factory automation systems: at this stage, both the suppliers and the potential customers are feeling their way.

On the supply side, the push for CIM systems creates demands for other technologies to take over functions such as handling, assembling and inspection, that have required a lot of skilled labour up to now.

In the past year, probably the most exciting developments have been in vision systems. The potential is enormous, especially in inspection and assembly, where they enable machines to identify parts and to verify their shape with 100 per cent reliability. One estimate suggests that by 1992 more than 40 per cent of inspection systems in manufacturing will have vision capabilities.

A plethora of new vision systems has come on the market. There are hundreds of companies in the U.S. and Europe, many very small, offering solutions to problems of non-contact sensing, high-speed operation, dimensional accuracy and the ability to examine small or restricted areas. Frost & Sullivan estimates that the European market for vision systems is worth \$190 million and will be \$330 million in 1989.

Heavy materials handling is another sector in rapid change. Automated guided vehicles (AGVs) are increasingly common in factories, but most are tied to fixed guidance systems such as wire rails buried in the floor. Some suppliers are developing free-ranging AGVs that will follow routes provided from computers.

Meanwhile, a big effort is being made to simplify electronic communication between the increasing variety of machines involved in factory automation. At the centre of this effort is MAP, the manufacturing automation protocol developed by General Motors of the U.S.

GM, which is one of the biggest spenders on automation equipment, hoped that if it required all suppliers to make MAP-compatible equipment, MAP would become an industry standard.

The MAP initiative has already turned into a bandwagon, with such automation suppliers as Fanuc of Japan and Gould, Digital Equipment, Honeywell and Hewlett-Packard of the U.S. following GM. Last November, GM demonstrated a fully-automated manufacturing system for making toys, using equipment from 21 suppliers all joined by MAP.

All this activity is bewildering for potential customers and, to the dismay of the suppliers, most are keeping their hands in their pockets.

Engineering Computers, a U.K. specialist publication, carries out an annual survey of U.K. engineering companies that use computers and other automated manufacturing equipment. Last year's survey found that only 3 per cent were using automatic welding and 4 per cent had installed automatic assembly systems. Even more surprising, only a third of plants appeared to be using computerised production control.

These findings are backed up by suppliers. Mr. Noel Davies, chief executive of the 600 Group, the U.K. licensee for Fanuc robots, says he has been disappointed at the low growth rate in robot sales.

"We have an overwhelming number of inquiries, but they are all of an educational nature," Mr. Davies says.

He and other suppliers frequently say that users waiting for the technology to be fully developed could be making a grave strategic error.

— Financial Times news feature.

by Afghanistan's first woman doctor and the only female member of the party's politburo, Anahita Ratebzad, also runs weekly work groups for women students, workers, peasants and housewives to promote the new approach.

"We tell them they're half the population," Naheed said. "We tell them about famous women around the world, about women's struggles for their rights everywhere."

This must be heady stuff for the women in cities and rural areas who hear it. Before 1978, about 98 per cent of all Afghan women were illiterate and knew little about the world beyond their mud houses and meagre farmlands.

It appears a bit too fast for some men as well.

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Computer power sheds light on who's really who in the Kremlin

PARIS — Puzzling out the riddles of Kremlin politics has always been an uphill struggle, but the answer to the question "who's really who in Moscow?" is now easier to find — thanks to a French computer.

When the Soviet Communist Party picks a new central committee of several hundred members at the close of its five-yearly congress in early March, up to half the names may be new.

The list will be minutely scrutinised by foreign embassies, news organisations and research institutes for clues how far General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev has consolidated his power.

But while most analysts will spend several days or even weeks

poring over yellowing card-indexes and copies of Pravda, French Kremlinologist Michel Tatu hopes to have the job finished in 24 hours.

Tatu, a former Moscow correspondent, foreign editor and more recently arms control specialist at Le Monde newspaper, has developed the first computer data base on the Soviet elite, appropriately named SOVT.

"We have 7,500 names now and expect to have 10,000 by the end of the year," Tatu says. "There are no limits."

The data base, updated daily by Tatu and three assistants who comb through 23 Soviet daily newspapers and a pile of periodicals, includes not only biographies dating as far back as 1917 but also a catalogue of events in Kremlin politics starting from

Gorbachev's appointment a year ago.

What makes it a powerful tool for Kremlinologists is the way the biographical facts are cross-referenced to allow instant answers to highly complex questions.

How many ambassadors have been moved since Gorbachev came to power? How many ministers lost their jobs in 1984? Which Soviet military leaders served in East Germany? Who worked with Gorbachev in the Stavropol region before he came to Moscow in 1978?

These are the kinds of questions which SOVT can answer, but it can't predict the future. "Sometimes people ask me if I can say who would take over if Gorbachev fell under a bus. Obviously I can't," Tatu says.

The idea of using a computer to

take some of the drudgery out of Kremlinology came to Tatu while he was writing his much-praised classic book "Le Pouvoir En URSS" ("Power in the Kremlin"), an analysis of the power struggles he witnessed as a correspondent in Moscow from 1957 to 1964.

It was a monstrous amount of work. Each piece of information had to be entered on dozens of different index cards. I said to myself that I needed a computer to come to my rescue," he says.

Tatu finally got the project under way in 1984, four years after returning to Paris after a spell as Le Monde's Washington correspondent.

A French government grant helped pay to develop the computer software, but Tatu emphasises that SOVT is a private commercial project with no political ties. "We are totally neutral. We are open to the KGB and to the CIA," he jokes.

Users of SOVT sign a contract with a Paris computer company which operates the system, are given a password and then pay for their access time at a rate of 1500 francs (\$200) an hour.

Tatu says there are already a number of French and foreign clients — official, academic and journalistic — and he hopes to make a profit before too long.

Clients in France can use their minitel videotext terminals, supplied free by the PTT, to check on who is in and who is out in Omsk and places further east.

But technical problems, principally the lack of direct automatic telephone dialling, have so far prevented SOVT from being used by those who possibly need it

most — embassies and journalists in Moscow.

Tatu says Soviet journalists who have visited his office for a demonstration have praised his idea, citing Gorbachev's personal enthusiasm for the introduction of computers.

The data base can be used to list the top officials, in order of rank, in leading Soviet institutions. Eventually it will expand to include figures from the worlds of science, the arts and sport, and also Soviet dissidents.

Tatu also hoped to broaden the market in the United States and other English-speaking countries by developing an English version.

But there has been no request from the Kremlin for a Russian-language version — at least, not yet.

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Voodoo still dominates life in rural Haiti

NEW YORK — The Duvalier dynasty was not the only power that dominated Haiti. The voodoo spirits of the serpent and the rainbow also hold sway.

The late Haitian dictator Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier knew how to draw support from the traditional voodoo society but his son, Jean "Baby Doc" Duvalier, never managed to build on that power base, according to one expert on voodoo.

The expert is Harvard ethnobotanist Wade Davis, who says he has come face to face with zombies, Haiti's legendary living dead.

His book "The Serpent and the Rainbow" was published a few weeks before widespread protest led to the ouster last Friday of president-for-life "Baby Doc" Duvalier.

A study of culture more than politics, the book skirts the topic of Baby Doc's iron rule.

Davis said this week that Papa Doc, who came to power in 1957, sought to displace the Mulatto elite and wood key figures in the traditional voodoo culture.

But Baby Doc lacked his own base and then alienated some of his father's circle by marrying into the Mulatto elite.

"In some ways, that marriage was a symbolic rapprochement between the traditional society and the elite, and at the same time, it was also a betrayal," Davis said.

"The son was coasting on borrowed time."

Davis' previous quests had taken him to the Amazon, the Andes, and the wooded wilds of northern Canada.

But none of that had quite prepared him for the task he was given a few years ago: Investigate reports that doctors in Haiti had found two authentic zombies.

Davis prefers the spelling voodoo — the version preferred by anthropologists — in part to distinguish what he calls the "rich religion of the Haitian tradition,"

from the Hollywood images of ugly wax voodoo dolls stabbed with pins.

In an earlier interview, when his book was published, he described his extraordinary travels in Haiti over the last four years, his visits to the "hounfours" or voodoo temples where Haitians dance for, and are possessed by, the spirits.

His starting point, he said, was the life, and death, and life again of a man named Clairvius Narcisse.

In 1962, an American doctor at a Haitian clinic signed the death certificate of Narcisse. Some 18 years later, the dazed old black man was found wandering in the countryside.

Narcisse, recalled Davis, spoke of being raised from the grave, beaten, drugged and enslaved. The scar on his right cheek, he said, came from a nail driven through his coffin.

Davis' assignment to what he called "the frontier of death" was to obtain and analyse zombie poison. He did so within weeks, with

ease that surprised him.

Some of the ingredients were common — easily found in any human graveyard.

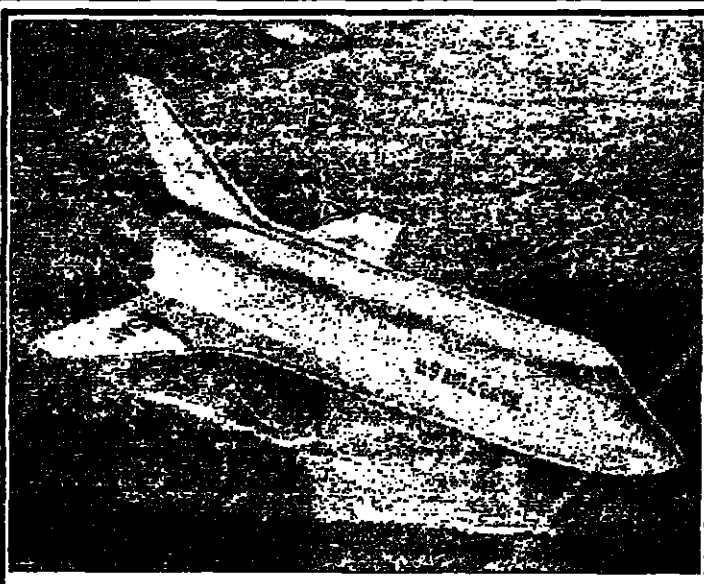
Others were toads and worms and tropical plants, but the key ingredient, subsequent laboratory analysis showed, came from the highly poisonous puffer fish or blowfish.

The blowfish is not an unknown poison. In fiction, a dab of blowfish poison on a tiny blade nearly did away with James Bond. On the other hand, the Japanese know how to prepare the fish safely and eat it as a delicacy.

"In Japan, a poison victim is a poison victim," he said. "In Haiti, a poison victim is a zombie. I wanted to know why."

Davis found the blowfish poison was often fatal, but in some cases only appeared lethal. It causes paralysis and slows the metabolism to the point where a victim seems clinically dead.

Narcisse, it seems, was poisoned. He fell ill and "died."

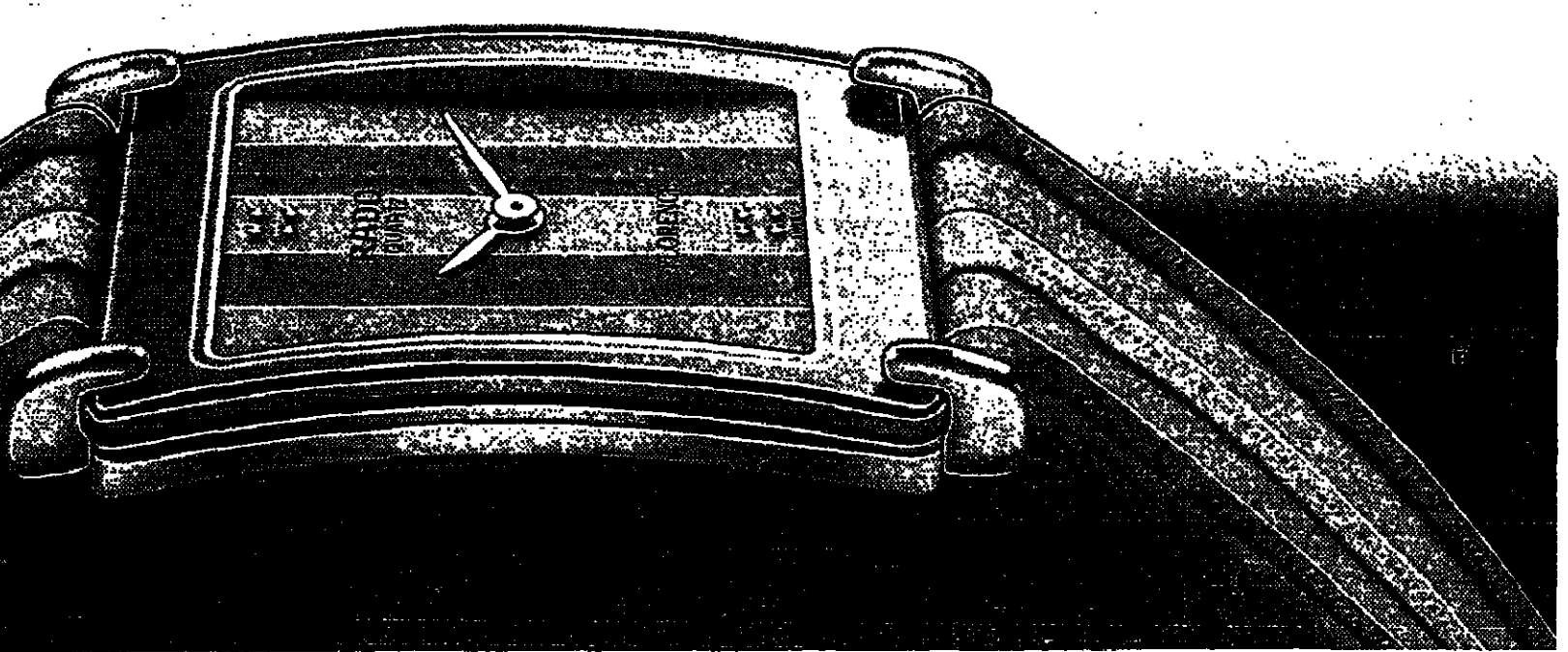


ORIENT EXPRESS: President Reagan announced in his State of the Union address recently that the U.S. will go ahead with research on a hypersonic Orient Express, similar to this artist's conception, that would make flights from Washington to Tokyo in two hours. The aircraft would fly in a low earth orbit. This design is under study by the U.S. firm Lockheed.

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Pruzzo scores 5 goals in Roma romp over Avellino

ROME (R) — Five goals by veteran centre forward Roberto Pruzzo enabled Roma to close on Juventus at the top of the Italian First Division Sunday.

Pruzzo scored all Roma's goals, including two penalties, in their 5-1 drubbing of Avellino and leapt to the top of the goal-scoring stakes with a personal tally of 12 this season.

With European Champions Juventus held to a 1-1 draw in a derby match against Torino, Roma are now just three points behind the leaders with nine matches still to play.

A 50,000-crowd at Rome's Olympic Stadium saw Pruzzo, in his ninth season with Roma, open the scoring in the 15th minute with a penalty awarded for a foul on Brazilian Toninho Cerezo.

Argentine centre-forward

Ramon Diaz equalised for the visitors 13 minutes later after a fine solo run.

But the second half saw Roma take complete control. Winger Bruno Conti and Polish midfielder Zbigniew Boniek set up goals for Pruzzo in the 57th and 69th minutes, and the 30-year-old striker scored twice in as many minutes just before full-time.

Juventus, playing their 190th derby against fifth-placed Torino, seemed set for a win after a 25th-minute goal by Dane Michael Laudrup, who scored from a Michel Platini pass.

But with three minutes to go, and Juventus down to 10 men

after midfielder Massimo Bonini had been sent off, Torino captain Renato Zaccarelli equalised after collecting the ball when it was punched clear by goalkeeper Stefano Tacconi.

Napoli held on to third place despite a 0-0 draw against Fiorentina which saw both teams floundering on a muddy pitch.

Argentine striker Diego Maradona came close to scoring for Napoli several times in the first half, one shot hitting the crossbar, another going just wide and a third curving into the grateful arms of goalkeeper Giovanni Galli.

Italian international Sandro Altobelli shook off a bout of influenza to score Internazionale's goal in their 1-0 win over Bari, while Milan, missing England striker Mark Hateley, had to work hard for a 1-1 draw with Como.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Kuwaiti absence won't affect Gulf tourney

BAHRAIN (R) — This year's Gulf Soccer Tournament will be held in Bahrain as scheduled despite the absence of Kuwait, barred from participation by a FIFA ruling, organisers said Sunday. The competition will be played from March 22 to April 7. FIFA (International Federation of Football Associations) suspended Kuwait last month amidst confusion over its administration of the game and alleged misuse of funds. Kuwait was ordered to elect a new soccer board.

Kankunen takes rally championship lead

KARLSTAD, Sweden (R) — Finland's Juha Kankunen took full advantage of the withdrawal of most of the favourites to win the Swedish Motor Rally in a time of five hours nine minutes 19 seconds Sunday. Kankunen's victory in the second event of the world championship took him to the top of the standings with 28 points, eight ahead of compatriot Henri Toivonen, winner of last month's Monte Carlo Rally. Kankunen, driving a Peugeot 205, covered the 30-section 50-km course one minute 54 seconds faster than second-placed compatriot Markku Alen. Reigning world champion Timo Salonen of Finland retired early during the three-day race with engine problems.

Sigi Held named as Iceland coach

DORTMUND, West Germany (R) — Former West German World Cup player Sigi Held has been appointed manager of Iceland's national soccer team. Held, who played in the West German team beaten 4-2 by England in the 1966 World Cup Final at Wembley, said Sunday he would take up his new post in May. The 43-year-old former trainer of First Division club Schalke said his priority would be the qualifying tournament for the 1988 European Championship. But on Friday, Iceland were drawn in the toughest group with France, the Soviet Union, East Germany and Norway and Held said he did not believe his side could realistically expect to finish in the top two.

PSG gains narrow victory

PARIS (R) — First Division leaders Paris Saint-Germain conceded an early goal and had to fight all the way to gain a narrow 2-1 first-leg lead in their French Cup second round tie against Second Division Montpellier here Saturday night.

Frank Passi, who had already drawn a fine save from French international goalkeeper Joel Bats in the sixth minute, shot the visitors ahead in the 10th from a superb pass by Andreas Torosik.

PSG badly missed World Cup striker Dominique Rocheteau, an influenza victim, but midfielder Fabrice Piquionne forced an equaliser five minutes before the interval.

Omar Sene, Rocheteau's replacement, made it 2-1 from a Poulain corner eight minutes from the end to give PSG a slight edge for the second leg in Montpellier.

Le Havre, first round conquerors of holders Monaco, gained a similarly meagre 2-1 first leg advantage at home to fellow First Division Rennes, having received a dream start with goals in the seventh and eighth minutes by Moroccan striker Merry Krismen. Guy Lacombe replied for Rennes in the 38th minute.

'Just a show, not a track meet'

By Larry Fine
Reuter

NEW YORK — It promised to be a record chase with the world's greatest pole vaulters competing instead, it was almost an international incident.

Americans Billy Olson and Joe Dial and Soviet star Sergei Bubka, who between them have raised the indoor pole vault record seven times this season, were brought together Friday night amid hopes for yet another record.

But protests, counter-protests and extra vaults turned the event into a circus. The competition dragged on for more than six hours, neither Dial nor Bubka made a single successful vault, the second-place finisher emerged with the meeting record, and Olson won by clearing 5.80 metres. No, make that 5.79 metres.

The Millrose Athletics meeting, in its 79th year, had never seen anything like it.

"You've got to look at it as almost a tainted competition," said Olson, who just last Saturday set his fourth record of the winter just hours after Bubka had eclipsed his previous mark. "Dial didn't have his poles. Everybody got four jumps. It was just kind of a silly meet."

Soviet coach Eduard Gustichin took it more seriously.

"Every thing was all right until the American athletes were given an extra chance. It was a brutal violation of international rules," Gustichin told Reuters through an interpreter.

A carnival atmosphere surrounded the competition at Mad-

ison Square Garden. Photographers, officials and curiosity seekers crowded along the runway and round the landing pit.

All three star vaulters protested against interference on the runway.

"Olson and Dial got extra jumps because the chief pole vault judge ruled they had been interfered with on their way down the runway, Olson by a photographer and Dial by an official," meeting director Howard Schmertz said.

"Bubka's was a natural complaint. He claimed he was interfered with because he had to wait at the end of the runway for five minutes and couldn't get his pole out."

Bubka, who had threatened to quit the competition, was also given an extra jump.

"Then he (Bubka) complained his brother Vasily was interfered with but we said that was enough. It practically ruined the meet. We were out there 45 minutes talking," Schmertz said.

Dial had special problems. The Oklahoma's pole disappeared in transit so he had to borrow one.

Bubka was clearly irritated after the event but did not blame Olson or Dial.

"The main reason is the American way of life," the 22-year-old Soviet athlete said. "They try to make the most money possible and the conditions are bad for the athletes. Victories are not real here because they are to make money for the Americans and they are not honourable."

Olson, 27, was sympathetic: "You can look at the Russian side

of it and say you shouldn't get another jump no matter what. I feel sorry for Sergei. He was upset. It's a little embarrassing for me to have him come up and say these American meets are just a show, not a track meet."

The circus atmosphere and controversy distracted everyone, he said, adding: "It's a sad thing that kind of thing has to go on during a coming together of all these great vaulters."

Olson won the event, but runner-up Dave Volz of the U.S. was credited with a meeting record.

Olson cleared 5.80 metres (19 feet 1/4 inch) for a new meeting record. But he grazed the bar as he went over, and a re-measurement, required for records, showed the bar at 5.79 metres (19 feet).

For the event, he was credited with 5.80 metres.

For purposes of the record, he received the lower height.

Volz cleared 5.80 metres, which was confirmed by re-measurement, but lost the event to Olson because of more misses overall. But he was credited with the meeting record.

Olson tried three times to break his current world indoor record of 5.93 metres (19 feet 5 7/8 inches) but never came close.

The Soviet coach, whose five-member team compete in three other meetings in the United States before returning here for the Mobil /Grand Prix finals on February 28, said that if the Millrose is an example of things to come, he's worried.

"I'm very concerned about the way the remaining meets will be conducted," Gustichin said.

Gilbert upset by France's Tulasne

BOCA RATON, Florida (R) — Thierry Tulasne of France upset American Brad Gilbert Saturday to advance to the fourth round of the \$1.8 million International Players Tennis Championships along with highly seeded Swedes Mats Wilander and Stefan Edberg.

Tulasne, ranked 23rd in the world and seeded 19th, beat 13th-seeded Gilbert 7-5, 6-2 while second-seeded Wilander beat American Mike Leach, the 31st seed, 6-1, 6-2, and fifth-seeded Edberg beat Damir Keretic of West Germany 6-1, 6-1.

Tulasne's victory over Gilbert was one of the big surprises of the tournament. The American has been one of the most successful players this year. He defeated John McEnroe at the Masters. Jimmy Connors and Edberg in winning the U.S. Indoor title and extended Ivan Lendl, the world's top player, in the Pro Indoor Championships.

But against Tulasne, he was unable to get his serve and volley game working.

"I got tired. Tulasne took a lot of wind out of me with his lobs,"

Gilbert said. "I should have been more patient and waited longer at the baseline."

"I won because I hit nice lobs at the right moment," Tulasne said. "People also told me if I hit right to his forehand it would bother him."

Earlier, top-seeded Chris Evert Lloyd and third-seeded Jimmy Connors overcame slow starts to win third-round matches.

Lloyd, down 3-5 in the first set, beat Catherine Suire of France 7-5, 6-1 while Connors, bouncing back from a first-set loss, eliminated fellow American Mark Dickson 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

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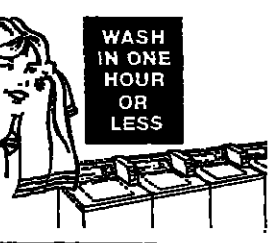


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THE GIRLS AND THE UNKNOWN (Colour)

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S. Arabia holds key to oil market stability

LONDON (R) — Oil prices are set to dive further within weeks unless Saudi Arabia backs off from flooding world markets, but Riyadh will be content to watch its fellow producers grapple with plunging oil income for some time yet, industry analysts said last week.

Analyst Mehdi Vazri of stockbrokers Greaveson, Grant forecast a further sharp drop in the next two to three weeks unless producers in and outside OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) could agree on halting the flood of unwanted oil on to world markets.

Hopes that fervent diplomatic activity led by OPEC founding member, Venezuela, and non-OPEC Mexico could persuade other producers outside the cartel to make concessions on production suffered a heavy, if predictable, setback recently.

British Energy Secretary Peter Walker, said after meeting his Mexican counterpart Francisco Lafontina Ochoa in London that his government would stick to its long-standing policy of allowing individual producing companies decide how much oil should be pumped from Britain's North Sea sector.

Analysts say this effectively ensures almost flat-out production, currently about 2.5 million barrels per day (b/d), a policy that has incurred OPEC's wrath.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah, a close ally of Riyadh, has said recently prices could fall to \$10 if Britain did not cooperate and called on it to make cuts of more than 300,000 b/d.

Mr. Walker's remarks were the main cause of the spot market's fall. Higher demand because of unusually cold weather in much of Europe and North America, which had also bolstered prices, was unlikely to last more than a few weeks, traders said.

Venezuela and Mexico's diplomatic mission, which also included talks with Egypt and the other major North Sea producer, Norway, is unlikely to yield any concrete results, the analysts say.

Saudi Arabia triggered the plunge which almost halved world prices in less than three months by more than doubling its output since last September, and it is the only nation that can halt the slide.

Riyadh could rescue the market by cutting its output from almost 4.5 million b/d now. But the analysts say it is highly unlikely to do this before the next OPEC ministerial meeting, tentatively scheduled for mid-March.

"I don't think (Riyadh) would throw away their ace before the meeting," said Mr. Peter Nichol of Scott Giff Layton, a London-based stockbroking firm.

"We take the view that they (the Saudis) will pull back from the brink but they're going to let it stew a bit longer," said Mr. Philip Lambert of stockbrokers Sheppard and Chase.

Saudi Arabia is one of the few oil exporters that can afford to do this. While countries such as Venezuela and Mexico face possible economic ruin, the growth of Riyadh's sales has balanced out the revenue lost on each barrel.

Riyadh's policy appeared to be aimed at making other producers suffer for another month, giving Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani immense leverage on fellow OPEC members to agree, and more importantly stick to, new production quotas at the next meeting, most of the analysts said.

OPEC already has quotas for each of its 13 members but these have been subject to widespread cheating. Sheikh Yamani's frequent warnings that he could start a price war to restore discipline failed to halt it, so last September he did just that.

Having taught fellow OPEC members a painful lesson, Riyadh hoped its calls would be heeded this time in return for cutting its own output, perhaps by one million b/d.

Meanwhile, the sudden sharp fall in world oil prices is prompting top economists to raise their growth estimates for the U.S. economy, adding new lustre to official predictions formerly considered optimistic.

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Arab experts emphasise importance of solar energy

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Gulf energy officials and experts on Saturday urged the Arab countries to turn to solar energy as a partial substitute for crude oil and natural gas.

"Oil is a depletable source of energy ... and in most of the Arab countries where dependence on oil is high the idea of finding energy alternatives has been raised," Mr. Ali Ahmad Atiq, secretary general of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPPEC) told a pan-Arab energy conference, opening here.

Bahrain's minister of works, power and water, Sheikh Majid Al Jisheer, told the second Arab international solar energy conference that "although we know that oil and gas are running out we still depend totally on them as energy sources."

His statement coincided with the publication of the economic bulletin of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) general secretariat which reported that, by the end of 1984, GCC countries together accounted for 42.7 per cent of the world's proven reserves of crude oil.

GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

Mr. Atiq cautioned that although a number of countries boast oil reserves that can last more than half a century, the "fact remains that other countries' reliance on that oil will inevitably be much higher."

Sheikh Al Jisheer contended that joint Arab efforts to develop solar energy would "help prolong the lifespan of our oil reserves," citing as example the fact that Gulf Arab countries devote about 45 per cent of their electricity consumption to air-conditioning.

Bahrain minister of industry and development, Sheikh Youssef Shirawi, was meanwhile quoted as telling the weekly newspaper Al Adhwa that "we might step into the age of solar and nuclear energy, in much the way we had moved from the age of coal to that of oil."

Sheikh Al Jisheer said that solar energy is the best alternative to oil as an energy source. He cited year-round warm sunshine in the region, stressing that solar energy is easy to harness, entails no environmental pollution problems, and "carries neither political nor

social problems whatever."

The amount of solar energy available over a year in the Arab World, is equal to six times the quantities of proven reserves of crude oil in the whole world, according to a study by the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development.

Jordan ranks second after Tunisia

Most Arab countries have not yet harnessed solar energy, with Tunisia being the first to have a solar energy plant. Jordan comes second with its West German-designed plant in Aqaba.

There also are small solar-fuelled desalination units in Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Iraq. The annual budget for solar energy research and development in the Arab World in 1984 was close to \$35 million, according to the same study, with Saudi Arabia accounting for about 60 per cent of the total.

Morocco, Egypt, Libya, Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, Algeria and Tunisia account of the rest of budget.

"One day of properly harnessed sunshine would be sufficient to meet the whole world's needs of energy for a year," added Mr. Atiq.

Reagan decries welfare system

SANTA BARBARA, California (AP) — President Ronald Reagan Saturday decried the U.S. welfare system as one that destroys families, promotes poverty and saps human potential, producing a "permanent scar" on the nation.

The president, in his radio address delivered from his ranch before returning to Washington, renewed his call for an overhaul of the nation's welfare system.

Mr. Reagan cited a "crisis of family breakdowns, especially among the welfare poor."

"Even the memory of families is in danger of becoming extinct," Mr. Reagan said.

Noting the doubling of illegitimate births since 1960, Mr. Reagan charged that the welfare system was at fault since young mothers could receive aid, medical care and food stamps if they did not marry or identify the father.

"Government programmes have ruptured the bonds that held families together," Mr. Reagan charged.

A system that provides money when the fathers do not acknowledge their children and gives mothers more money if they do not work must be changed, the president said.

"Obviously something is desperately wrong with our welfare system," Mr. Reagan charged.

"But the waste of money pales before the sinful waste of human potential."

"The family is the most basic support system there is," Mr. Reagan said. The nation has been built on families pulling together and lifting themselves out of poverty by their own labour, the president said.

"For the children of child mothers and absentee fathers, there is often only a deepening cycle of futility, hopelessness and despair," Mr. Reagan said.

He said the crisis was growing, one that "threatens to become a permanent scar on the American promise of hope and opportunity for all."

Mr. Reagan noted that he has directed his administration to study the welfare system "with a keen eye to making reforms."

Although Mr. Reagan did not

NEWS ANALYSIS

Already Iran and Libya have cut their exports and Mr. Vazri estimated this had lowered overall OPEC production to 17 million b/d from 18 million in December.

But Iraqi air raids on Iran's Kharg Island export terminal and a U.S. boycott excluding Libyan oil from American-owned refineries in Europe meant sales would have fallen anyway.

OPEC's output will have to fall at least another one million b/d by March to keep pace with falling demand as the northern winter draws to a close.

But one broker disagreed that Sheikh Yamani could impose discipline any more successfully now than before.

"If Saudi Arabia really believes after two months of stomach ache OPEC will behave like angels, they must be out of their minds," he told Reuters.

"It's got to reach a stage of real pain and it just hasn't gone on long enough," he added, requesting anonymity.

He saw no chance of OPEC discipline unless prices were well over \$20 a barrel, ensuring reasonable income. This was clearly out of the question during the present glut.

"If there were a solution round the corner, why has it taken so long to find one?" he asked.

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Moderate Sikhs challenge militants in Punjab rally

ANANDPUR SAHIB, India (R) — A rally of moderate Sikhs Sunday accused militants of leading India's Punjab state towards civil war and called for their removal from Sikhdom's holiest shrine, the Golden Temple at Amritsar.

About 60,000 Sikhs, far fewer than expected, crammed into a muddy field next to a 322-year-old shrine in this Punjab village to condemn the occupation of the temple complex by student-led militants on Jan. 26.

The occupation has threatened political stability in the Sikh-majority state.

At the same time at a rival meeting 150 kilometres away in Amritsar the militants vowed to defend the Golden Temple.

Reuter correspondent Ramesh Pande said 60,000 Sikhs packed the Golden Temple and took a pledge "to defend our religion and the sanctity of this great and sacred place the Akal Takht."

Militant leaders then laid the foundation stone of a new Akal Takht (eternal throne), the seat of Sikh spiritual and temporal power.

The 18th century building was damaged when the Indian army stormed the temple in June 1984 to flush out extremists seeking a separate state in Punjab.

The government helped repair

it but militants considered the work unholy and began demolishing the building last month.

More than 10,000 police and paramilitary troops ringed the field and halted temple at Anandpur Sahib where the moderate Sikhs carrying saffron flags, swords and rifles had assembled for a Sarbat Khalsa (congregation of the pure). These rarely-held gatherings vote on issues to be followed by all members of the religion.

The moderates, who included religious leaders and members of Punjab's ruling Akali Dal Party, passed a resolution calling for the eviction of the militants who had "violated the sanctity of the Golden Temple."

"They are bent upon dividing the Sikhs. Naked swords and firearms are threatening people who come to pray, spreading hatred and fear and terror," the resolution said.

It condemned extremist attacks on young Sikhs and Akali Dal leaders and accused the hardliners of

leading the state towards civil war.

The state department vowed Saturday to end the occupation and to crack down on extremists who have killed more than 100 people since the Akali Dal came to power in September.

The militants held their own meeting inside the Golden Temple on Jan. 26. They voted to expel five head priests and reject the peace pact signed last July between Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Punjab Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala.

Mr. Barnala Saturday night accused the militants, who want a separate Sikh nation in Punjab, of declaring war on the state and said his government was ready to take "very harsh steps" to deal with them.

In his strongest denunciation of extremism since coming to power Mr. Barnala said his reluctance to act so far had been an effort to avoid suffering, not a sign of weakness.

"If they (the militants) continue to play into the hands of our enemies, my government will be constrained to take some very harsh steps to deal with the situation," he said in a radio broadcast.

"These elements have declared a war against the state," Mr. Barnala had said earlier that the militants had smuggled arms into the

Golden Temple.

But gave no indication of what action he contemplated. In June 1984, the army stormed the temple complex to oust armed Sikh extremists. At least 1,000 people were killed.

Moderate leaders first summoned the Sarbat Khalsa at the Golden Temple but switched to Anandpur Sahib to avoid bloodshed.

The village is historic for India's 14 million Sikhs whose 10th guru or teacher Gobind Singh founded the Sikh warrior tradition here in 1699. The place also gave its name to an Akali Dal campaign in 1973 for greater Sikh control of Punjab affairs.

The moderate-militant showdown has heightened tension in the Sikh-majority state where police have tightened security in the wake of stepped up extremist attacks.

Paramilitary forces have ringed the Golden Temple and set up road blocks around Amritsar to prevent an influx of militants. All processions and meetings of more than five people in the holy city have been banned until April 14.

Police have also arrested a number of militants including the widow of Beant Singh, one of Indira Gandhi's Sikh assassins.



Prince Charles

Charles to tour high-tech sites in Texas

DALLAS (R) — Britain's Prince Charles visits Texas this week but his interest will be in high-technology rather than oil or cattle or the soap opera that has made Dallas a household name around the world.

Coming as guest of honour at the state's 150th birthday party, the heir to the throne will spend five days learning about the fledgling computer businesses and high-tech research which Texas hopes will support its economy in the next decade.

Flamers of his trip said the emphasis on computer chips came at the request of the prince, who is interested in ways in which the British economy might be diversified.

During his two-day stay in Dallas starting Monday, Prince Charles will not visit the Southfork Ranch, home of J.R. Ewing in the long-running Dallas television series.

Nor will his busy trip do much to cheer real-life Texas oil barons who have watched crude oil prices skid more than 40 per cent in the past three months, giving the Texas budget a record \$1.3 billion revenue shortfall.

But on the lighter side, the prince will cut the world's largest birthday cake, attend a foot-stamping country music performance and visit the battleground where Texas won its independence from Mexico 150 years ago.

Prince Charles will visit Texas without his wife, Princess Diana, who accompanied him on a trip to Washington.

In Dallas, he will tour the sparkling white Infomart, a year-old replica of London's 19th century Crystal Palace, which houses more than 50 computer and telecommunications wholesalers.

It offers an array of high-tech products and its gift shop sells computerised greeting cards.

British Queen starts Nepal visit Monday

KATHMANDU (R) — Thirsting rains cast a cloud over the start of a visit to Nepal Monday by Britain's Queen Elizabeth and her husband Prince Philip.

On Friday rain deluged this bustling temple city which is the capital of the world's only Hindu kingdom and on Sunday storm clouds again darkened the sky.

Nepalese officials said the late arrival of winter rains which can bring landslides and floods were their only worry as the country prepared for the five-day tour.

If the rain strikes Monday the elaborate arrival ceremony will be held in a hangar and plans for the queen to ride through the city in a horse-drawn carriage may be cancelled.

Several thousand people flocked to see a dress rehearsal last week of the carriage procession which will take the queen from the ornate wood-carved temples in the ancient heart of the city to the nearby palace of King Birendra.

Men worked through the night painting walls, levelling roads and putting up welcome arches along the route from the airport. Monday has been declared a public holiday.

Queen Elizabeth was the first reigning monarch to visit Nepal, cut off from the outside world by the vast Himalayan Mountains and deliberately isolated for centuries by its former rulers, when she came here in February 1961.

Although 25 years have brought roads and electricity to Nepal's remote mountain villages, cars on the streets of Kathmandu and even a national television network two months ago, the country is still the world's tenth poorest.

Despite the presence of thousands of foreign tourists trekking and climbing over giant mountains like Everest, the capital Kathmandu preserves its timeless character.

King Birendra is revered as a descendant of the Hindu God Vishnu and one of the queen's first stops is at the house of the "Kumari," a girl child thought to be a living goddess and prayed to annually by the king.

Unlike its giant southern neighbour India, Nepal was never colonised by the British.

But special ties date back to 1816, when Britain signed a treaty to recruit Gurkhas, soldiers from the mountains of Nepal who have become famed for their courage and help guard the queen at Buckingham Palace in London.

50 injured in Bangladesh student, police clashes

DHAKA (Agencies) — At least 50 people were injured during student protests in Bangladesh Sunday, officials said.

They said more than 30 people were hurt at Cox's Bazar where hundreds of stone-throwing students shut shops and offices and halted traffic for several hours.

Police used batons and fired shots to disperse the students but no one was hit by bullets, the local administrator told Reuters by telephone.

The protest was organised by the student wing of the Jamaat-e-Islami Party which alleged two of its supporters were killed by pro-government students in the southern city of Chittagong Saturday.

In Dhaka, 16 people were injured when police used clubs and tear gas to disperse students ransacking an office of the pro-government Jatiya Party in a busy commercial district.

A six-hour strike called to protest against Saturday's killings virtually halted Chittagong, officials and residents said. No violence was reported there.

Fundamentalist students marched through the south eastern port city in small groups, shouting anti-government slogans, but there were no reports of violence, said a senior police officer.

The officer said government offices functioned during the strike. The fundamentalists also were protesting police action taken against them Saturday, when at least 30 people were injured during a protest.

The military government shut down the institute Saturday for an indefinite period and ordered the students to leave their dormitories to head off further violence.

7 New York passengers hurt in plane evacuation

NEW YORK (R) — Seven passengers were injured in an emergency evacuation of an Eastern Airlines 110-11 aircraft at New York's Kennedy Airport, police said.

They told reporters the plane carrying 242 people was taxiing for take-off on a flight to Miami when an engine caught fire.

Seven passengers suffered minor injuries while sliding down inflatable chutes, they said. Airport police put out the flames.

"We're pretty confident there have been no casualties but we won't be absolutely certain until we can check numbers against a master list," he added.

The Cook Strait ferry *Ararua* reported it had picked up about 600 people — several of them elderly — from lifeboats and life rafts and a further 100 had been taken on board a bulk cement carrier which had been diverted to help, along with a New Zealand Naval Fisheries patrol boat.

"They're all in good health, though wet and cold," the spokesman said.

The rescue ships were heading for Wellington where police launched a midnight appeal for accommodation for the evacuees.

But search coordinators said the abandoned life rafts — drifting in the bay without warning lights — were a danger to small boats heading for the bay from surrounding settlements.

A leading theory on the cause of Challenger's explosion points to the possibility that a seal between segments of the right-side booster rocket may have ruptured, allowing white-hot flames to escape and set off a catastrophic chain reaction.

Investigators are looking into the possibility that sub-freezing temperatures may have damaged the booster seal, a component that had been cited in the past by space agency engineers as a potential safety hazard.

Several days after the explosion, the space agency's internal board was placed under the authority of the investigating commission named by President Reagan and ordered to report back to him within 120 days.

Space agency officials said they were surprised by the commission's decision Saturday to circ-

Four blacks killed in South Africa protests

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Three blacks were killed when protests erupted in a township near Johannesburg while another person died during overnight unrest in Cape province, police said Sunday.

A spokesman said the bodies of two men were found in Alexandra township with gunshot wounds after blacks and police clashed repeatedly Saturday. On Saturday night police reported one black woman was killed in the unrest.

Doctors at a local clinic said

they treated a large number of casualties, including blacks with gunshot wounds and suffering from the effects of teargas.

The protests in Alexandra, which lies close to some of South Africa's most affluent white suburbs, began after several thousand people attended a funeral.

Police said the burned body of a black man was found at Guguletu township near Cape Town. They reported sporadic protests and unrest in six other areas, but no casualties.

Tamil rebels to free British woman today

NEW DELHI (R) — A major Sri Lankan Tamil separatist guerrilla group said Sunday it planned to release Monday a British woman kidnapped four weeks ago as a suspected intelligence agent.

A spokesman for the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS) told Reuters in New Delhi by telephone that Penelope Eva Willis, 64, would be freed in Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna area to a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross and a British High Commission official.

Willis, who told the guerrillas she was a freelance journalist, was kidnapped on Jan. 18 near Jaffna by EROS, one of five major guerrilla groups fighting for an independent Tamil nation in the island's northern and eastern areas.

The decision was reached after the Sri Lankan government gave EROS a guarantee that its security forces would suspend all military activities in the area Monday, the spokesman said.

"We decided to free her on humanitarian grounds because of her age and appeals from several quarters... (but) EROS makes it clear it will no more tolerate any further subversive methods, however old such agents may be," the spokesman said.

Meanwhile President Junius Jayewardene dismissed opposition calls for a quick election, saying polling would be held only in 1989.

He told a meeting Saturday that former Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike, leader of Sri Lanka's main opposition Freedom Party was indulging in foolish talk about an immediate election and claims that she could wipe out guerrilla activity in 24 hours.

"Which fool will hold an election at this time," Mr. Jayewardene said in a reference to the unrest in the northern and eastern provinces where Tamil guerrillas are fighting for a separate state.

Bandaranaike said at a meeting in central province that she would press for elections this year.

Three civilians were killed by security forces during a guerrilla attack on the northern military base of Jaffna city Saturday, defence officials said.

Two soldiers were killed and four wounded when guerrillas ambushed a security patrol Sunday in Jaffna district, a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

He told Reuters that troops managed to beat back the attackers at Elephant Pass, about 60 kilometres from Jaffna.

Portuguese vote in presidential election

LISBON (R) — Voting began slowly in Portugal's presidential election run-off Sunday after polls opened in bad weather. Police were also on alert following the killing of the director of prisons on the eve of the vote.

Left-wing guerrillas claimed responsibility for the shooting in a Lisbon street Saturday night of Gaspar Castelo Branco, 53, the director of Portugal's Prison Service.

Interior Minister Eurico De Melo said he believed the murder, which the Popular Forces of April 25 (FP-25) said it carried out, would not affect voting. "Security measures have been taken as they would be for any election," he said.

In the capital, driving rain discouraged early voters and heavy rain and high winds were forecast over all the country.

Officials said the bad weather could increase abstentions among the 7.6 million-strong electorate, increasing the prospect of a close battle between the two presidential contenders, former Socialist Prime Minister Mario Soares and his rival, right-wing law professor Diogo Freitas Do Amaral.

A spokesman for FP-25, named after the date of Portugal's 1974 revolution, told a radio station Saturday night Castelo Branco was killed because of the treatment of guerrilla suspects in custody. He did not mention the election.

Mr. Soares and Mr. Freitas Do Amaral have called for a big turnout.

About 25 per cent of voters failed to go to the polls in the first round three weeks ago when two radical left-wingers were eliminated.

Although the candidates have drawn large, enthusiastic crowds during their campaigns, officials in both camps are worried many people may simply be fed up with voting after four elections in four months.

A low turnout should favour Mr. Soares, because the abstention rate is normally higher in the conservative north and among the right wing.

But the veteran Socialist leader, who polled 25 per cent of the first round poll against Mr. Freitas Do Amaral's impressive 46 per cent, needs to sweep up the votes of almost all those who chose a losing candidate in January.

The beaten candidates and the normally fragmented left have united in calling for a vote for Mr. Soares, but his aides are worried that some Communists, who despise Mr. Soares because of his strong anti-Communist stand since the 1974 revolution may prefer to abstain.

Under Portugal's semi-presidential constitution the head of state is not a policy maker so the campaign has been based on personalities rather than issues.

Mr. Soares, 61, has portrayed himself as a moderate, experienced leader, whose record of opposition to the former dictatorship shows his support of democracy, restored to Portugal only 12 years ago.

He has accused Mr. Freitas Do Amaral, a former Christian Democrat leader, of collaborating with the old regime by failing to fight it,

Curfew briefly lifted in old Delhi

NEW DELHI (R) — Police Sunday briefly lifted a curfew on Delhi's old walled city for the first time since Friday when Hindu-Muslim violence broke out there and spread to northern India, leading two people dead and 150 injured.

A police spokesman told Reuters the curfew, imposed after Muslims clashed with police over a court ruling giving Hindus access to a disputed shrine, was lifted for 90 minutes to allow residents to buy food.

The spokesman said the curfew was reimposed at 10 a.m. while top police officers decided whether to end the restrictions keeping people indoors.

One person was killed and more than 50 were injured in Friday's clashes in Delhi which spread Saturday to Srinagar, capital of the predominantly Muslim state of Jammu and Kashmir. Police said one person died and 100 were injured in Srinagar.

The clashes were set off by a court order reopening after 37 years a shrine claimed by both Hindus and Muslims in India's most populous state, Uttar Pradesh.

Hindus regard the shrine at Ayodhya, used since 1528 by Muslims as a mosque, as the birthplace of the God Rama.

Images of Rama were believed to have appeared in the mosque in 1949, causing Hindus to flock to the shrine and leading to its closure to head off communal riots.

1 dies in gas leak

At least one person was killed and three others were affected when carbon monoxide leaked from a factory tank in India's southern Tamil Nadu state Sunday, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported.

PTI said the incident occurred at the state-owned Bharat Heavy Electricals Factory in Tiruchirappalli town while the victims were cleaning the tank.

NASA releases new photos of shuttle explosion

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — Space officials have released new photographs of the fiery destruction of the space shuttle Challenger and said astronauts might have received a warning from computers a split-second before they died.

"It was like a flash of lightning (on the cockpit computer screen) and there was no time for anybody to react to it," space agency spokesman George Diller said.

In one picture, smoke can be seen shooting from the side of the right booster rocket a half second after ignition.

Other shots show a tongue of flame licking from an apparent breach in the rocket only seconds before Challenger was consumed in a giant fireball.

Space agency spokesman Jim Mizell said computers detected a slight drop in the pressure of the booster rocket 62 seconds into the flight and tried in vain to compensate for the failure.

"The vehicle went up and down like a porpoise and then left and right during the last 11 seconds of

Soviet liner sinks in N. Zealand bay

WELLINGTON (R) — A Soviet cruise liner sank in a remote New Zealand Bay Sunday night but rescue officials said there were no immediate reports of casualties among about 800 people who had been on board.

They told Reuters that the 20,352-ton Mikhail Lermontov sank in 33 metres of water about five hours after it hit rocks and was holed in heavy rain and poor visibility.

The officials said reports coming in from the scene were confused as rescuers tried to ensure all passengers and crew were off the ship.

Poor radio reception and language difficulties caused communications problems with the Leningrad-registered ship before it sank.

Tom Smith, a farmer in the remote Port Gore area in the Marlborough Sound at the northern tip of the South Island, said on radio he had watched the stricken

vessel trying to beach itself.

He said the ship was clearly listing on its port side as it approached the shore.

Smith said the rain hindered visibility but "it looks like a town with all the lights of the (rescue) boats."

The rescue fleet that raced to the area included one of the big train ferries that ply between the North and South Islands.

The Mikhail Lermontov, built in East Germany in 1972 and strengthened for use in ice, was crewed by 330 Russians and 10 Australians.

It cruises out of Sydney to New Zealand and the Pacific Islands during the southern hemisphere summer and had left Wellington Saturday night for the scenic Marlborough Sounds.

A search and rescue spokesman said the liner's chief officer had reported that all passengers and crew were off the ship when it sank.

"We're pretty confident there have been no casualties but we won't be absolutely certain until we can check numbers against a master list," he added.

The Cook Strait ferry *Ararua* reported it had picked up about 600 people — several of them elderly — from lifeboats and life rafts and a further 100 had been taken on board a bulk cement carrier which had been diverted to help, along with a New Zealand Naval Fisheries patrol boat.

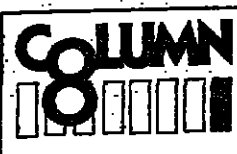
"They're all in good health, though wet and cold," the spokesman said.

The rescue ships were heading for Wellington where police launched a midnight appeal for accommodation for the evacuees.

But search coordinators said the abandoned life rafts — drifting in the bay without warning lights — were a danger to small boats heading for the bay from surrounding settlements.

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Investigators are looking into the possibility that sub-freezing temperatures may have damaged the booster seal, a component that had been cited in the past by space agency engineers as a potential safety hazard.



Acid thrower receives death sentence

DHAKA (R) — A Bangladesh military court has sentenced a farmer to death and his two sons to life imprisonment for killing a neighbour with acid, police said.

They said the three sprayed nitric acid on 23-year-old Enamul Haq (23) from a window as he slept in his home in western Jessore district last May following a land dispute. He died in hospital two days later. Another military court has jailed two young men for life and fined 1,000 taka (\$30) each for raping a woman at Dhaka's Mirpur Zoo last October, official BSS news agency said Sunday.

Canton bans ownership of dogs

PEKING (AP) — Dog ownership has been banned in the southern city of Canton and its outskirts, and those violating the law will be fined, a newspaper reported. The Yangcheng Evening News said that recent regulations banned all dogs except guard animals and dogs with other special uses. The report gave no reason for the new regulations, but the danger of rabies was the reason given for a ban on dog ownership in Peking in 1983. Officials said special extermination squads killed 200,000 dogs there. The state-run newspaper Peasant Daily reported Thursday that as many as quarter of China's dogs may be infected with rabies. After a rabies outbreak in Hunan province early last year, half of the 26,000 dogs in the affected area were killed. In Canton, anyone caught with a pet dog will be fined.

The military government shut down the institute Saturday for an indefinite period and ordered the students to leave their dormitories to head off further violence.

China film delayed by costume hunt

PEKING (R) — A \$20-million film being made by Italian Director Bernardo Bertolucci about China's last emperor has been delayed for two months by the hunt for 9,000 costumes, the director said Sunday. Bertolucci, who was looking at locations in Peking's former imperial palace, told reporters research work began 19 months ago on the costumes which were being bought, borrowed and made specially.

"The costumes should not look too new, as they do in traditional Peking opera. They should look like clothes, not costumes," he said. The start of filming, originally due in April, is now scheduled for June, he said. It will last 20 weeks in at least five Chinese cities and studios in Peking and Rome. The film is based on an autobiography by Henry Pu Yi, who became emperor in 1908 at the age of three and was overthrown in 1911 when the Chinese Republic was founded. In 1934, he became "emperor" of a puppet state set up by the Japanese, was later tried as a war criminal and jailed in China for nine years until 1959. He died in 1967.

American women have little chance to marry after passing 30

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut (AP) — If a college-educated woman in the United States isn't wed by the age of 30 these days, she has little chance of ever being married, says a recently completed study by a Yale University professor. Women in the United States appear to be sacrificing marriage for their careers and education, said Neil Bennett, an assistant professor of sociology and co-author of the yet unpublished study. "As they defer marriage it becomes less and less likely whether by choice or involuntarily, that they will ever marry. The marriage market may unfortunately be falling out from them," he said recently. The study was based on a U.S. Census Bureau survey of 70,000 households. Bennett said. The other authors of the study are Harvard economists Professor David Bloom and Yale sociologist Patricia Crane. In a recent interview with the advocate of Stamford, Bennett said he could not determine whether the failure of such women to marry was voluntary. "It's not clear whether women who hit 30 without marrying ever wanted to marry," he said. "We just don't have statistics on the desires of women at these ages." According to the study, 78 per cent of all college-educated women who are now between the ages of 25 and 29 have ever married. Bennett said the traditional marriage rate for all women is about 90 per cent but "these historical statistics seem to break down in modern time."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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A SHIFT IN TIME

Both vulnerable. East deals.
NORTH
♠ Q 10 7 2
♥ 9 3
♦ A J 10 5 3
♣ 10 2
EAST
♠ A 9 8 6
♥ 10 8 7 6 5 2
♦ 6
♣ K 8
The bidding:
East South West North
2 NT Pass 3 NT
Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of ♣.
It has become fashionable to open weak two-bids on very poor suits. Occasionally these methods make life very difficult for the opponents, but they do backfire sometimes. This hand is from the final of the International Team Trials held recently in Memphis, Tenn.
In keeping with his system, East chose to open two hearts. North-South bounced into three no trump and West committed a cardinal sin — he led his partner's suit! That gave declarer three heart tricks and

five diamonds, and he set up his ninth trick by forcing out the ace of spades.
In the other room, too, the final contract was three no trump, but this time after a more straightforward auction starting with a one no trump opening bid by South. West made his normal opening lead of a low club, won by East, Chip Martel of San Francisco. Now, the routine play of a club return would give declarer a chance for his contract. Declarer would get a club trick and West would have no fast entry to his clubs. Since declarer could not risk a losing heart finesse, he would be forced to play East for the ace of spades and West for the jack. A finesse of the ten of spades would give declarer two spade tricks, a heart, five diamonds and a club.
Declarer was never given the chance